

# Disability Now

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Heidi Cutter from Yorkshire set new British records in the F6 discus, javelin and shot at the International Wheelchair Games last month. Report, page 9.

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## 'Just Say No' to IVB plans

Protests are continuing to stream into the *DN* office as the Government gets set to bring in a Bill to tax Invalidity Benefit (IVB).

It is understood that the Bill, to be announced in the Queen's Speech in November, will enable the Government to tax IVB and tighten the rules on who should get it.

Since *DN* launched its "Just Say No" campaign in the July issue, 56 people have written and telephoned to protest about Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley's plans.

Maria Theresa Sanguinetti of Taunton, Somerset, wrote: "Does Mr Lilley have any idea how difficult it is being disabled, and just how much it costs? As usual, his Government seems intent on making the lives of the weak and vulnerable even more difficult. If

*Continued on page 6*

## BR does U-turn on scooters

Disabled campaigners have won a victory in their fight to get battery cars and scooters back on trains.

British Rail (BR) staff were told to bar the equipment in May because there was no room on trains.

Now a national campaign by disability groups has succeeded in forcing BR to do a U-turn. From September, trains that have guards vans will carry the equipment. This includes trains on the Sussex Coast line, some Network South East stock and certain Inter City lines.

BR has promised to review the ban on other services. But a spokesperson admitted that the bulk of regional services would continue to be hit.

Campaign organiser Shirley Philps, from Lewes, Sussex, knew nothing of the ban till she tried to book a ticket to go on holiday to Blackpool and was told her battery car could not go with her. "It ruined my hol-

*Continued on page 2*

## Neighbours impose noise order on home

Environmental health officers have told a community home for people with learning difficulties to keep residents quiet or discharge them.

Newbury district council served the noise abatement notice on the Walled Garden in Calcot, near Reading, after neighbours launched a "Clean Calcot Campaign", complaining that screams, wails and "animal-like" noises were disrupting their lives.

Environmental health officers, who spent two weeks monitoring the home, decided the noises were a "statutory nuisance". The council has said that anyone identified in the home as being a noise-maker will have to be removed.

But an independent report by NCA Architect Technology

iday because I had to take my conventional wheelchair and my husband has a back brace.

"We were furious and responded by protesting at the local station. When we were told to leave, we refused. I took the keys out of my wheelchair and told them they would have to carry me away."

She also sent letters and petitions to disability groups all over the country. Over 17,500 people signed.

Another of those hit by the ban was Lady June Mavor, from York. "When I tried to book a ticket, BR told me the only way I would get the scooter to my destination was by parcelling it up sending it by post. This would not only be costly but also very difficult as the scooter is 56 in wide.

*Continued on page 2*

Consultants, for the Walled Garden, said the home had a "low level of noise with occasional sounds" which was "normal for all households".

Walled Garden director Chris Stevens said: "We will consider taking legal action once we have seen what the environmental health officers wrote in their log books. If the council wins its argument no care home in Britain will be safe. Neighbours who fear falling house values will use this as an excuse to force certain clients to be discharged to institutions."

A MENCAP spokesperson said: "This case is very important and we are concerned about its implications. The notice strikes at the very heart

*Continued on page 12*

# Up Ben Nevis on their backsides

Liz Hollis reports

A team of disabled climbers are celebrating a successful attempt to become the first wheelchair users to climb Britain's highest mountain unaided.

The gruelling four-day climb was achieved by the men literally dragging themselves on their backsides through rough terrain until they reached the 4,406 ft summit of Ben Nevis.

Coordinator Gerry Crowther said: "They only made it because of sheer determination. I don't think people have quite grasped yet what they achieved."

Graeme Stewart who has paraplegia and David Donaldson with spina bifida, both from Scotland, and Neil Howard and Dave Podd from Norfolk, who have spinal injuries, also expect to raise £5,000 for the Jubilee Sailing Trust and mountain rescue.

After months of hard training, the men are over the moon about reaching the top. "It is like a personal Everest," said Neil Howard.

The only disappointment



**Rocky route to glory:** disabled climbers (from left) Neil Howard, David Donaldson, Dave Podd and Graeme Stewart, setting a new record for climbing Ben Nevis.

came when leading climber Dave Podd had to be airlifted off the mountain just before reaching the summit. "I was heartbroken," he said. "The terrain on the second half was horrendous. I kept damaging my spine by hitting the rocks. At the end of the day it just got the better of me pain-wise. The

doctor wouldn't let me go on."

The weather was appalling throughout the climb. The men and their able-bodied team of helpers were soaking wet for most of the four days.

The terrain was so rough that as they approached the summit, the climbers had to spend the night in a survival

bag because it was too rocky to pitch tent. Afterwards, they were airlifted from the summit.

"Some have said they were foolhardy, some have praised them, but whatever the reaction, one thing is certain - it was so tough that they never, ever, want to do anything like that again," said Gerry Crowther.

## Good and bad prospects for disabled students

Most further education colleges are not making enough provision for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, says a new report from the Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

*Taking It Further* shows that only 16 per cent of colleges have a policy on deaf people, although 75 per cent have policies on special needs education.

It also finds that colleges do not have up-to-date, quality

information about the communication and special educational needs of deaf students, and there is patchy provision of communication support services and technical aids.

It proposes that college staff get comprehensive information about deaf students' needs, and full-time deaf students receive a grant for interpreters and get communication and technical support to put them on an equal

footing with other students.

A survey by Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities reveals that only four out of 40 fine art degree courses in England are physically accessible, only seven have induction loop systems in lecture theatres and many have no equal opportunities policy for disabled students.

Skill wants colleges to improve access to buildings and courses,

give disability awareness training and develop equal opportunities policies which cover access.

\* The European Social Fund has given £49,000 to Southampton University to develop a data base so students with disabilities can check if their chosen university is equipped for their disability.

RNID report, free, 071-387 8033.

**BR does U-turn on scooters**  
Continued from page 1

"I have missed out on a holiday because of this and am very upset. I've travelled with my scooter for years without any problems, so this has come as a big shock."

Mrs Philps said: "We are delighted BR has listened to us and hope they change their policy."

"This is an important issue because the independence of many disabled people like myself is at stake."

Philip Wilks, spokesperson of the Central Transport Advisory Committee, a watchdog which represents BR users, said: "This BR rule is a concern to us and we are pleased this campaign has made them think again. The problem has been caused by BR replacing old stock with shorter trains to save money."

"It is a shame that disabled people on regional services will not benefit from the review."

A BR spokesperson said: "We stopped taking scooters and battery cars because we just did not have enough room."

"But in view of the complaints, we decided to review the situation and from September will allow them on lines that have trains with guards vans."

## Disability Now

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## TUC backs disabled workers

Almost 100,000 disabled people are missing out on public sector jobs because employers are not fulfilling the three per cent job quota, a Trades Union Congress (TUC) report revealed last month.

The national survey, *Disabled People Working in the Public Sector*, showed that 43 local authorities and health authorities do not employ disabled staff and the Department of Employment is the only Government department to meet the quota.

The TUC wants a properly enforced quota system and firms fined for failing to meet their quota. It is also calling on the Government to introduce anti-discrimination legislation, make disability leave a legal right for newly disabled people, improve Disability Working Allowance and abandon plans to make employers pay half the cost of equipment and help for disabled people.

The TUC is now seeking a meeting with Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott.

TUC spokesperson Bernadette Hilton said: "We will use the report to demand disabled people get their fair share of job opportunities."

*Free, The Equality and Social Policy Department, TUC, tel: 071-636 0632.*



Twenty Kuwaiti children with learning difficulties visited London last month for a fact finding trip and holiday. The children, aged seven to nine, go to the Khalifa School for Children with Special Needs in Kuwait City. During their 12-day tour, they visited Gateway Clubs, went horseriding and enjoyed a special reception organised by MENCAP.

GRAHAM SIMPSON

## Delays disrupt children

Disabled children in Stockport, who need essential aids such as wheelchairs and callipers, are getting a poor deal, according to a new report.

The survey of 47 families with a disabled child was done by Stockport Community Health Council (CHC), which represents local NHS users.

It found money was being wasted on unsuitable equipment, lives were being disrupted by delivery delays, there was very little choice available, goods were sometimes of poor quality and families were being put under great stress.

Overall, 52 per cent of families found the service satisfactory, with 22 per cent describing it as "bad".

Delays were common, with some children waiting up to a year for a wheelchair and nine months for boots. One parent had to tie up their child's boots with string while waiting for

new ones.

Parents also complained of not being listened to and said money was being wasted on unsuitable or ill-fitting equipment.

Recommendations include:

- \* standards for quality, safety and delivery times should be clearly defined;
- \* families should be assigned to an expert orthotist;
- \* comprehensive catalogues of

aids and appliances should be made available to everyone;

\* a "users group" be set up to keep professionals in touch.

The report has been sent to Stockport health authority, NHS consultants and social services for their response.

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### Cerullo protest

Disabled activists protested when American evangelist Morris Cerullo appeared at Earls Court Arena, London, last month.

The campaigners were furious that Mr Cerullo claimed to cure disabled people during his "Faith Healing Mission" to Britain. About 30 members of Direct Action Network leafleted outside the Arena, chanted slogans and challenged him to "cure his attitude".

Organiser Sue Elsegood said: "We feel Cerullo's attitude towards disabled people is deeply dangerous. We need anti-discrimination legislation, not miracle cures. His claims are an insult to the disability rights movement."

Demonstrator Rita Baker, from Earls Court, said: "Cerullo is undermining us by calling disability the work of the devil. He is implying that disabled people are miserable and are just waiting to be cured."

### No RIP

Many crematoria lack basic facilities for disabled people, according to a national survey published by the funeral planning firm Chosen Heritage last month.

It found 58 per cent of crematoria do not offer disabled toilets, 64 per cent do not have an induction loop system, just three provide service books in braille and only 30 offer sign language interpreters.

Ramps and wheelchair spaces, however, are common and Manchester Chorlton cum Hardy Crematorium was commended for running tours for deaf and blind people. It also provides braille memorials on rose trees.

*Crematoria Survey, £50,  
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## 4 NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

Alison Rowat reports

### Council tax row

Disabled people living in low cost housing are suffering "penny-pinching discrimination" when it comes to getting council tax discounts, say MPs.

The amount of tax you pay depends on which of eight valuation bands, A-H, the property is in.

If you qualify for a reduction (for example, if one of the rooms is used mainly by a disabled person), the house slips down a band.

But homes in the lowest band A - worth up to £40,000 - have nowhere to slip to, so no reduction applies (*DN*, February).

A motion signed by 68 MPs is calling on the Government to introduce a new "A-minus" band. "Thousands of disabled people living in low cost housing are losing out through no fault of their own."

The Department of the Environment says there are no plans to change the system.

### Discounts safe

Current discounts for disabled people and those travelling with them will continue to be available on privatised railways, Mencap chairman Lord Rix has been told (*DN*, August).

At a meeting in July with the Rt Hon Earl of Caithness, Lord Rix was also assured that refunds would still be available to people forced to travel in the guard's van.



25 young deaf people and interpreters spent a day in Parliament in July, organised by Deaf Accord and sponsored by Kingfisher plc and the NASUWT and MSF unions. Among the 30 MPs who turned out to meet them were Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott. Matthew Brown of Essex said: "It made me aware of how sometimes it must depend on only a few active people and organisations to alter perceptions and prospective legislation."

## Homes need money, not less red tape

Thousands of disabled and elderly people will be forced to continue living in unfit homes if new Government plans go ahead, says Age Concern.

The Government announced a reform of the renovation grants system, which helps to make homes accessible, in June. It claims the system is too

bureaucratic and unwieldy, and says demand will outstrip expenditure by 1994. Proposals include tightening the means test and replacing grants with loans (*DN*, August).

Age Concern argues that the problems are due to not enough money rather than too much red tape.

Director Sally Greengross said: "On paper, the grants system gives many people on low incomes a real chance to do something to radically improve their quality of life. Many more older people in poor housing would qualify for help if they knew about the system and if councils had adequate money."

## Parliament to get access facelift

After decades of piecemeal concessions, the inhabitants of the Victorian-built Houses of Parliament are putting a real effort into making the buildings more accessible to disabled people.

Wycliffe Noble, consultant architect to the Royal Associa-

tion for Disability and Rehabilitation and the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, was asked to look at existing facilities and state how access could be improved. Previous commissions include the Royal Albert Hall and Canterbury Cathedral.

A report has now been sent to the Commons' Accommodation and Works Committee, which will consult the All-Party Disablement Group and English Heritage before publishing its response in the Autumn.

### No to home taping

The British Government has backed disability groups in their fight against the European Commission's plans to tax home taping (*DN*, May).

Baroness Denton of Wakefield, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Consumer Affairs and Small Firms, told the Lords that the Government was "unconvinced" of the need to tax audio and video tapes and all recording equipment in order to compensate copyright owners for private copying.

She also gave a commitment to safeguarding the interests of disabled people should the proposals get any further.

### Super-Budget

The first combined Budget/Autumn Statement will be delivered on 30 November.

As well as announcing the annual uprating of benefits, the Government will reveal how much help it will give to people on income support and other means-tested benefits to compensate for the introduction of VAT on fuel.

### Jobs for 40,000

The Employment Service placed 40,300 disabled people in jobs last year, exceeding its target by over 4,000, according to its annual report published in July.

Targets are set by the Secretary of State for Employment with the chief executive of the Service. The target for 1993/94 is three per cent, or around 43,000 at current rates.

A report by the charity Youthaid and the Unemployment Unit last year put the number of unemployed disabled people at nearly 298,000 (*DN*, September 1992).

### Therapy call

Disabled people should be able to get complementary therapies such as acupuncture and homeopathy free within the NHS, says the Labour Party.

Dawn Primarolo, Shadow Health Minister, said: "Complementary therapies have proven medical benefit and are cost effective by avoiding the need for costly drug treatment or surgery. 75 per cent of GPs refer to complementary therapists and 75 per cent of the public believe [therapies] should be available on the NHS."

Consultation document free from Dawn Primarolo, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Deadline for comments: 1 December.

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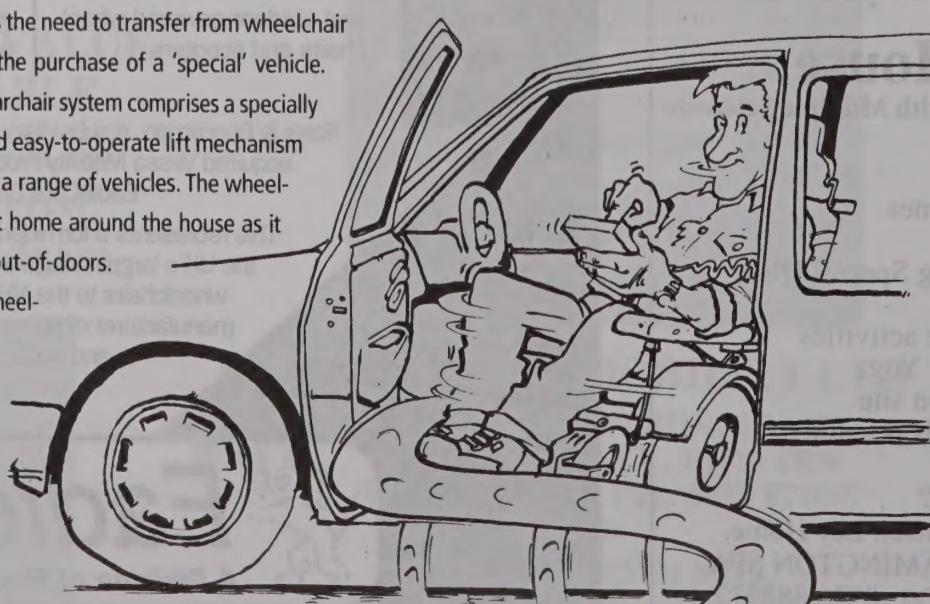
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# Parents campaign against closures

Angry parents fear health officials will close the Cheyne Centre for children with cerebral palsy in Chelsea, London, and move its services to Charing Cross hospital.

Riverside health authority launched a review of the centre's future after a report by the authority's director of public health said services for children with special needs in the area should be integrated on one site at Charing Cross.

A parents' campaign group, led by Tim Carron Brown, fears the move would reduce services, which include speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

Mr Carron Brown, whose son Charlie is one of more than 200 children attending the centre each year, said: "This is simply a cost-cutting exercise. The site is worth a lot of money and they want to sell it. We fear that if the centre

moves, it will lose a computer room, the use of a swimming pool and a vast store of specialist equipment."

Caroline Gould, senior nurse at the centre, said: "The children love the centre and see it as a home. The parents fear they will not be as happy if they have to go to hospital."

A health authority spokesperson said a number of options were being considered and no decision would be made until there had been full consultation with everyone.

\* Parents at Fairfields Special School in Northampton are fighting cuts in teaching staff and secondary provision by the local education authority. "There are many proposed changes being planned at the school which we feel will seriously affect our children's education," said Elaine Burt of the Parents' Committee.

## Asians not using disability services

Disabled Asians and their families are not using services provided for them, says a new report from the Asian Disability Advisory Project (ADAPT) funded by Barnardo's and the Spastics Society.

It proposes Asian teams to advise service providers and develop the kinds of services the Asian community wants. Bradford has expressed interest.

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Viva women entrepreneurs! Becky Ward (left) from Sutton Coldfield, has not let ME stop her from launching a range of collectors' Munchy Bears helped by Birmingham Training and Enterprise Council. Rachel Groombridge, a former policewoman from Pendle, now runs the Black Cat Saddlery, using traditional craft skills to make and repair tack. She has been helped by East Lancashire into Employment, funded by local authorities and ELTEC.

### 'Just Say No'

*Continued from page 1*

these proposed cuts are implemented, I will never vote for the Conservative Party again."

Thomas Wingrove of Dartford, Kent, said: "It is a sad day for Britain when a budget deficit created by poor Government management is used as a tool against the disabled of this country."

Ellyn Thomas of Ceredigion, Dyfed, said: "Their assurances that 'the real needs of the dis-

abled will be protected,' and IVB will be 'more efficiently targeted to the most needy,' are about as convincing as a farmer wishing his turkeys a happy Christmas."

A reader from Essex, who asked not to be named, said: "I am 76 and for the first time in all those years I feel ashamed of my own country."

Ben Furner of Hove, East Sussex, said: "I would recommend tax rises for people who can afford it - like Government ministers."

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation and Disability Alliance have been investigating the impact of the first round of IVB rule-tightening, introduced in April. The results are due in September.

The DN protests are to be delivered to Mr Lilley on 6 September. If you would like your views to be among them, please write to DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, or telephone 071-636 5020 ext 245.

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## Gardener fights redundancy

A disabled London gardener, who was made redundant last month after 31 years service, is fighting to get his job back.

David Part, 48, who has learning difficulties, left six years after receiving a long service award.

Mr Part is determined to fight the decision and is being backed by his union, Unison. Unison branch chairman Bob Hall claims Mr Part was not properly advised of his rights under Camden's redeployment procedure. "This is an outrageous case of discrimination," he said. "We'll go to an independent tribunal if necessary."

Union convenor Stuart Doran said: "Camden claimed David couldn't use the machinery because he can't read instructions. This is rubbish.

"The council knew he was disabled when it took him on, but is now using his disability to get rid of him and replace him with agency staff."

A council spokesperson said: "Mr Part was properly advised of his redeployment rights and his redundancy had nothing to do with his ability to use machinery."

## Roger's reunion

A former nurse and one of her favourite patients enjoyed a remarkable reunion last month, thanks to *DN*.

Joyce Harris, from Norwich, could not believe her eyes when she spotted Roger Elliott's name in her June copy of *DN*. Roger, from Pinner, was in the news for helping the Green Tyre Company test a new puncture-proof tyre, but Joyce remembered him as a



Reunited: Roger and Joyce

five-year-old boy she had treated for spina bifida at Stanmore Orthopaedic hospital in London over 40 years ago.

"I immediately contacted the firm to see if it was the same man," said Joyce. "We then arranged a reunion and had a lovely time."

Roger was equally delighted. He said: "I was very pleased to hear from Joyce. It was a nice surprise after all these years."



Wheelchair user Kevin Sadler (centre) tried out the ramp of a new 15-seater bus at Churchtown Farm when he visited the outdoor and environmental education centre in July.

The specially adapted vehicle was paid for by the Lanlivery Trust, British Telecom, South West Water, Cornish Ford and an anonymous donor.

It will help the Spastics Society-run centre provide transport for visitors with special needs.

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## 8 BREAKTHROUGHS

### New skill makes Clare smile

A new surgical technique has enabled eight-year-old school girl Clare Mendham to smile for the first time.

Clare, from Southend, Essex, has facial palsy, a condition which affects about one in every 500 babies. It leaves children unable to move the left

side of their face. While most recover, about 50 babies a year do not.

The new technique was carried out on Clare by Douglas Harrison, a consultant plastic surgeon at London's Mount Vernon hospital.

Clare was given two operations. First, a length of nerve tubing was removed from her leg and grafted on to the seventh cranial nerve on the unaffected side of her face. The grafted tubing was taken under the skin below the nose and

across the paralysed cheek to the other side of the face. Nothing was done for six months while nerve fibres grew through the grafted nerve.

Then, a small muscle called the pectoralis minor was removed from her chest, complete with its own nerves. This was then transplanted into the immobile side of her face and connected to the newly grown nerve and arteries of her face.

Mr Harrison said: "I've operated on about 100 people so far and found that most

babies with facial palsy can be successfully treated."

### Damaged nerves grow in lab

Scientists from Britain, America, Switzerland and Germany have succeeded in getting damaged and severed nerve fibres to grow in the laboratory.

The research teams, funded

by the International Spinal Research Trust (ISRT) charity, believe their work will enable doctors to mend broken backs and necks by the end of the century.

The breakthrough was made possible by the discovery of molecules which stop the regeneration of nerve fibres. An antibody has been developed which makes the molecules harmless by masking their effects.

Scientists also hope to insert the gene responsible for human growth factors (HGFs) - chemicals secreted by the body to increase cell growth - into cells in the spinal cord. It is believed this would speed up the healing process by increasing the amount of HGFs produced in the damaged area.

Dr Peter Edmond, of the spinal injuries unit at Glasgow's Southern General Hospital said: "This is an exciting area of research. We can expect results by the year 2000."

ISRT research director Peter Banyard said: "Doctors used to believe that spinal cords could not be repaired, but these technical advances have made a big difference and we are hopeful that new treatments will be developed within the next decade."

### Radio alert gives vital warning

Scientists at Southampton University have developed a new alert system for deaf-blind people. The device is programmed to detect a wide range of sounds around the house, including the doorbell, smoke alarm or telephone.

As soon as the system recognises a sound, the transmitter unit sends out a radio signal to a receiver, which is fitted inside the user's pocket like a radio pager. The receiver then gives out a pattern of vibrations which tells the user, in code, what is making the noise.

Philip Gagfa, who has tested the device, said: "Being profoundly deaf and nearly blind, I found the machine very useful. It is excellent for people who can't see visual warning signs."

The developer, Dr Bob Damper, said: "Most alerting devices are no good to Philip because they use flashing lights. Vibrations, on the other hand, are easily detected. We now want to find a charity who would help make and supply the device."

A spokesperson for SENSE (The National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association) said: "This is an excellent idea which I am sure will be of great interest to our members."

Dr Bob Damper, Department of Electronics and Computer Science, Southampton University, Highfield, Southampton SO9 5NH.

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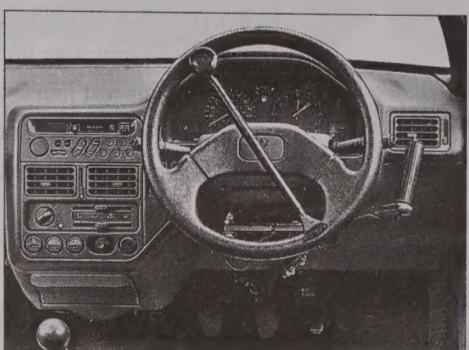
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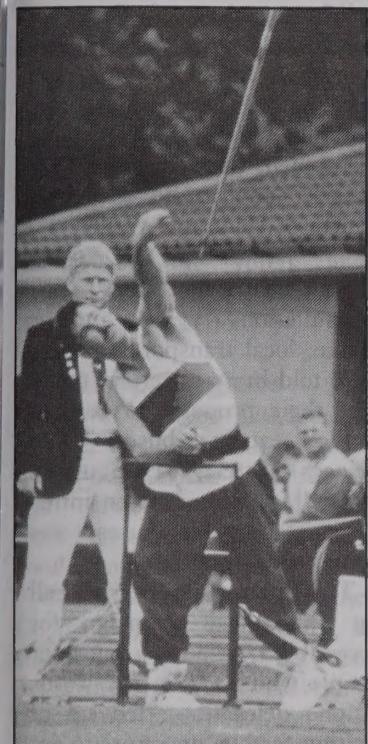
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# Britain's new stars lead the way

British athletes won 79 medals, including 34 golds, during the International Wheelchair Games at Stoke Mandeville last month.

Wayne Ryding, from Worthing, led the way with four gold medals in the S7 50m and 100m freestyle and 50m and 100m backstroke.



On target: James Woods winning the F6 javelin event

Murray Campbell, from Nottingham, who won golds in the S7 50m butterfly and 50m

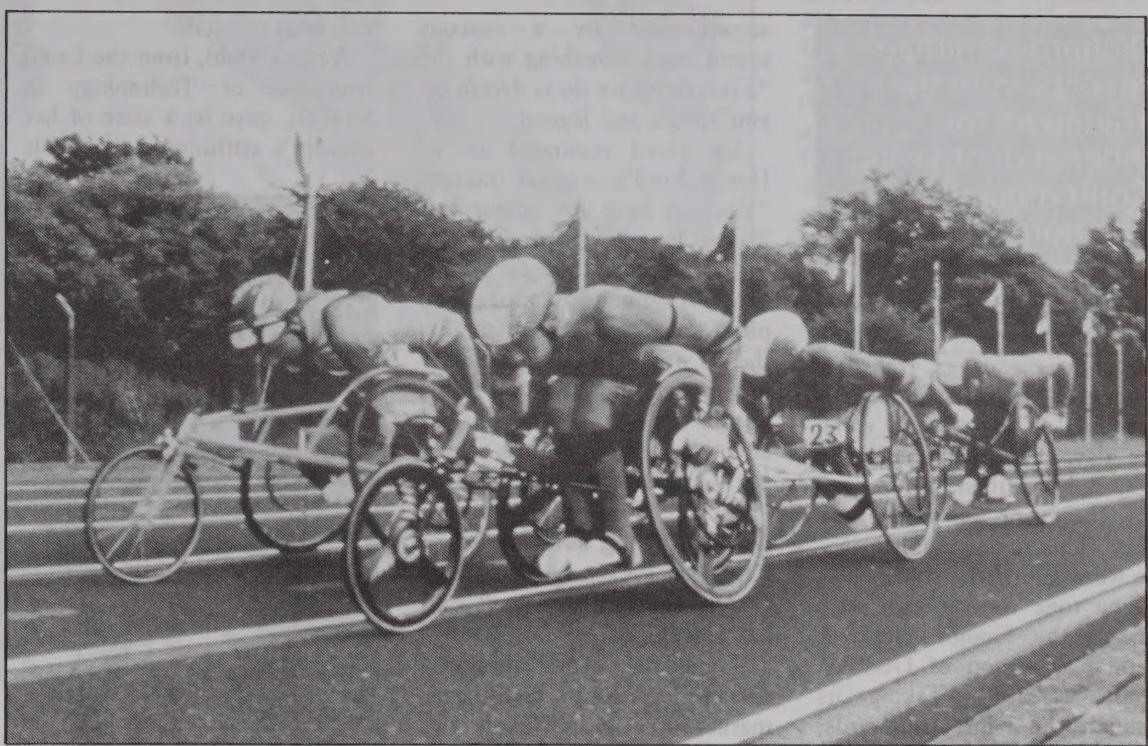
individual medley events, said: "I'm really pleased to have won in such fast times. It's been a very encouraging week but I'm hoping to go faster next time."

Vivien Mullett, from Eastleigh, was also in fine form, winning four gold medals in the women's S2 25m, 50m and 100m freestyle and B2 25m breaststroke.

The aim of the Games was to provide the 26 competing countries with an opportunity to try out new athletes in international competition. Many of the newcomers proved their worth, especially Rachel Potter, from Manchester, who set a new British record in the pentathlon with a total of 3,268 points. She also broke the British javelin record and won the F7 shot put event.

Sally Reddin, of Holbeach, won the women's F4 discus event, James Woods, from Chelmsford, took the F6 javelin gold, while Yorkshire's Heidi Cutter set new British records in the F6 discus, javelin and shot competitions.

Paul Davies, from Glamorgan, and John Gunn, from Aylesbury, won the men's table tennis team event but Britain narrowly failed to win the wheelchair rugby tournament. They were beaten 30-37 by the United States in a thrilling, closely fought final.



Going for gold: The race is on for a place in the men's 1,500m T4 final

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

## England tops medals table

England topped the medals table at the Robin Hood International Games for people with cerebral palsy at Nottingham last month.

Over 350 athletes from 30 countries around the world took part in a wide range of events, including athletics, swimming, boccia and table tennis. Thirty new world records were set during the Games, many of them in the swimming pool.

British swimmers Jane Stidder, from Markham, shaved several seconds off the women's 50m backstroke class four world record when she finished in a time of 56.09 sec, while Sascha Kindred, from Oldham, set a new world mark in the 1,500m freestyle class seven.

Christopher Parkin, from Lincoln, won a gold in the boccia competition and Grimsby's Colin Woodford triumphed in the table tennis tournament.

## Kai cruises to first win

Kai Schrameyer won his first British Open wheelchair tennis title at Nottingham in July.

Schrameyer was in superb form, beating the world's number one player, Laurent Giammartini, 6-4, 7-6.

Britain's best placed player was Peter Norfolk, from Hampshire. He reached the last eight before losing to Schrameyer.

"I am very pleased with my performance here," said Peter. "I was delighted to reach the quarter-finals. I struggled against Kai because he's such an excellent player."

Holland's Monique Kalkman made it three titles in a row when she won the women's Open. Kalkman beat another Dutch player, Chantal Vandierendonck, in the final.

Christine Blackmore, from Hampshire, reached the final of the women's A division tournament and Noel McShane, from Middlesex, was runner-up in the men's B division final.

Sport is written by  
Tim Russell, tel:  
071-636 5020

## Ruthless Rawson races to title

James Rawson raced to a second successive Wheelchair Open title at the National Table Tennis Championships at Reading in August.

The annual championships, organised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled, attracted a field of more than 100 top players from all over the country.

Rawson, of the East Midlands, won his title by beating East Midlands team-mate John Pyne in an exciting final.

"I was determined to win," said Rawson after his triumph. "It's a great feeling to land another title and I want to hang on to it for a few more years."

David Hope, from Bradford, won the standing event, Melanie Davis, from Bromley, took the women's Wheelchair Open title and Yorkshire's Judith Smith the women's standing event.

The team trophy was won by Yorkshire and Humberside with Southern Region second.

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# Scots get glimpse of transport future

**Richard Armitage**  
reports from the  
Transport for  
Independent Living  
Conference in  
Edinburgh in July

This conference did just what you might expect: demanding accessible passenger transport systems; all agreeing the accessible bus or train would come one day; and everyone going away duly fortified. Yet, in one way, the event was unlike any other. This time, disabled people were calling the shots.

The tone for the two days was set by Dougie Herd of Lothian Coalition of Disabled People (LCDP). Taking us through the name backwards, he said: "First and foremost we are people, human beings. Yes, we are disabled - it's inescapable but it doesn't define us. As a coalition, we are a cross-disability organisation seeking to involve people in activity, and we let people define for themselves what disability is. And we are locally-based, in Lothian, where there are about 800,000 people." LCDP has 300 members and a staff of six. "We lobby, we campaign, we advocate, we support, we educate, we inform, we advise ... and we always seek to change."

#### Stunning show

Then the lights went down and we were treated to a short video from Ford. A blaze of colour, clips and fast cars was

accompanied by a raucous sound track, finishing with the "Everything we do is driven by you" jingle and legend.

Mr Herd reminded us of Henry Ford's original dictum: "You can have any colour you like, so long as it's black".

"If it's possible for Ford Motor Company to change its philosophy so fundamentally, then it ought to be possible for me to get on a bus in Edinburgh." It was a powerful and effective piece of theatre, which I will savour for a long time.

#### Change "long overdue"

The need for change was "self-evident and long overdue", said Mr Herd.

The advent of anti-discrimination legislation and sheer market forces meant it was only a matter of time before we would have an integrated public transport system.

He gave an example of these market forces. While on holiday in San Diego, USA, he had a problem over motor insurance and wasn't able to drive around.

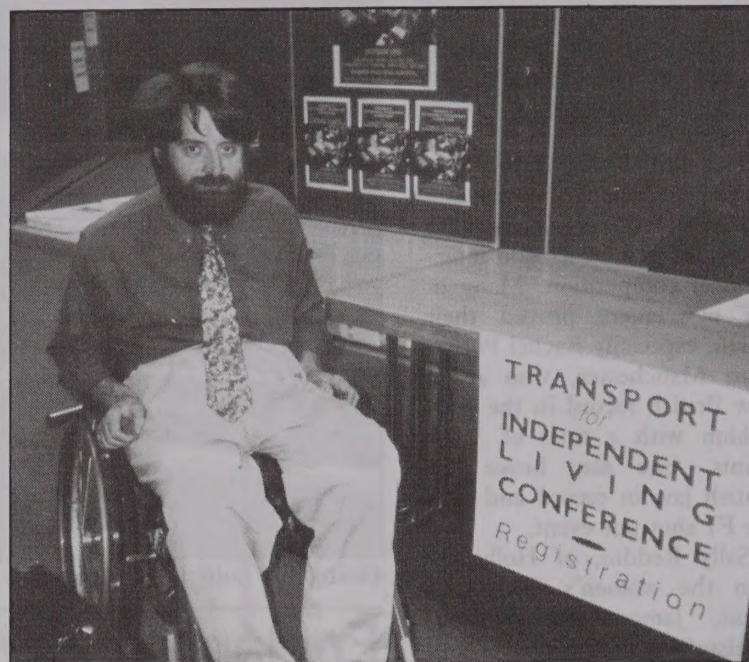
He phoned a disability advice line for help, and they suggested he go to a bus stop and wait a few minutes. For the next three weeks he travelled all over the city by public transport, spending the money he had allowed for car hire in the local shops, cafes and cinemas instead.

Over 220 people came to the conference and exhibition, organised by the Community Transport Association and sponsored by the major Scot-

tish local councils.

Agneta Stahl, from the Lund Institute of Technology in Sweden, gave us a taste of her country's attitude to accessible

abled users were the most thought-provoking. After hearing about the Swedish approach, Martina Stanley, from the Glasgow Youth



Dougie Herd, Lothian Coalition of Disabled People

RICHARD ARMITAGE

transport. Although it still has some way to go, Sweden is far ahead of other countries with its properly planned, across the board approach.

#### The bus operators' view

George Watson from Clydeside 2000 gave the usual bus operators' argument: "you give us the money and we'll go accessible".

Among the 42 speakers, dis-

Forum on Disability (GYFD), said: "I'd like to go; I thought it sounded like heaven!"

She described GYFD's accessibility survey and report, summing up the problem in a nutshell: "Dial-a-Bus does not go where I want to go at the time I want to go".

Survey results were sent out to authorities and transport operators and not even acknowledged. Many of these

organisations claim to welcome passengers' views.

Users also called for an end to segregated "special needs transport"; timetabling that allows passengers time to get to their seat; and accessible passenger information (minicom, taped information, braille, large print, etc).

When the forthcoming Department of Transport-sponsored low-floor bus trials in London (68 vehicles) and Tyneside (5 vehicles) were mentioned, there was a call for at least one to be tried out "north of Hadrian's Wall".

#### Edinburgh fight starts

Consultation was another theme: local transport planners were told in no uncertain terms that their proposal to ban all traffic except buses from Princes Street, Edinburgh's main drag, without even introducing accessible buses, was going to be opposed.

The final session heard a call for a national campaign for accessible transport, a must for people who are - in the words of one delegate - "fed up of waiting for bus operators to get their act together."

Conference proceedings are to be published. Contact Keith Gowenlock, Public Transport Section, Central Regional Council, Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET. See profile, page 15.

## Stop fighting, start helping

Lack of understanding between social services, health workers, voluntary organisations and housing authorities is causing problems for elderly and disabled people, says a new report.

*Community Care: the Housing Dimension\** said health and social workers tended to accuse housing departments of being slow and inflexible, while housing officials complain that some

existing tenants are not receiving adequate care.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation criticised delays in finding suitable places for people in urgent need. Housing schemes should be adapted to meet needs, and there should be more "ordinary" houses with support services.

Peter Arnold, one of the report's authors, said: "Bud-

getary constraints on local authorities have meant the divisions between housing and care provision have grown wider in recent years, despite the fact that community care makes it more urgent that professionals co-operate fully."

\*£6.50, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Homestead, 40 Water End, York YO3 6LP.

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**IN BRIEF****Hayward loses again**

Conservative candidate Robert Hayward suffered a heavy defeat at the Christchurch by-election in July after disabled activists disrupted his campaign (DN, August).

Mr Hayward was targeted by Direct Action Network (DAN) members because in January 1992 he talked out the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill.

The former Kingswood MP, who was defending a 23,015 Tory majority, lost by 16,427 votes to Liberal Democrat Diana Maddock.

Allan Sutherland of DAN said: "We feel we had a big impact on the voters and showed what can be achieved through direct action."

**Grants up for grabs**

Grants of £10,000-£20,000 are on offer to help health authorities, social services departments and disability organisations work together and develop good community care policies.

The grants come from the Living Options Partnership, a collaborative venture between the Prince of Wales' Advisory Group on Disability and the Kings' Fund Centre, funded by the Department of Health.

The project aims to promote the involvement of disabled people in planning, implementing and evaluating services by creating a "network" of service agencies and disability groups.

*Applications by 20 September. Living Options Partnership, tel: 071-267 6111.*

**Calling all hacks**

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) is looking for budding disabled journalists.

RADAR's Opportunities in Journalism Scheme offers three annual scholarships to candidates wanting to train in either print, photo or broadcasting journalism. The courses are full-time for one year and can be taken at colleges around the country. Applicants must have a minimum of two 'A' levels and two 'O' levels.

*RADAR, tel: 071-637 5400.*

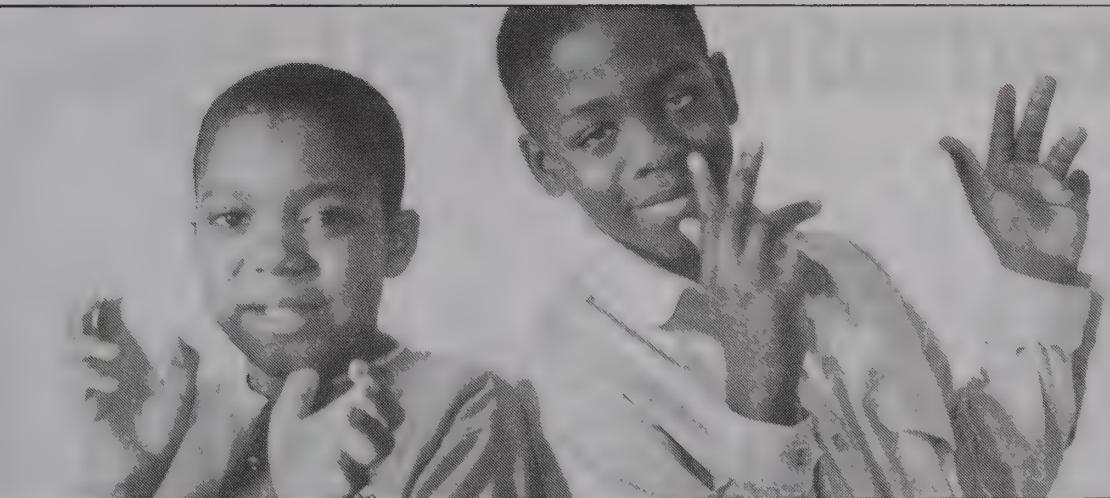
**Landmark commission**

A young trainee stonemason, who is deaf, has been commissioned to replace a famous landmark in London's Trafalgar Square.

Piers Baxter-Smith, from Hailsham, Sussex, will renew the carved stone panel outside Canada House, which commemorates the start of the Queen's 1977 Jubilee walk.

**Correction**

Invalid Care Allowance (ICA) is £33.70 a week and not £37.50 (DN, August). Apologies for any confusion caused.



Joel Robinson (*left*) and Gary Michelle's *Self-Portrait* is one of the works on show at the *Exploring Identity* exhibition in London, till 14 September. A group of artists and photographers from Community and Recreational Arts in Barnet (CRAB) teamed up with disabled pupils and staff from Greenfields school to produce the exhibition. For more information on CRAB contact Maria Bartha, tel: 081-200 8353. Exhibition is on at the Old Bull Arts Centre, Barnet, tel: 081-449 0048.

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# BR ticked off

An official consumer watchdog has punched British Rail's ticket over its treatment of disabled travellers.

In its 1992/93 annual report the Central Transport Consultative Committee (CTCC) said it had "noted with regret several cases where it is clear that commercial considerations have outweighed the case for ease of access for disabled people - for example, the siting of station toilets below ground level to provide for commercial outlets on the concourse and the failure to ensure that a refurbished station was properly accessible to wheelchair users."

The CTCC also revealed the continuing controversy over the reduction of the discount on cheap day return tickets for dis-

abled people (DN, May 1992).

When it cut the discount from half to a third in January, BR told the CTCC that the extra money gained would be put towards improving facilities for disabled travellers.

"Eventually," said the CTCC, "BR conceded that no definite plans had been formulated and that its immediate priority was to ensure that money was available to operate the railway in accordance with minimum safety standards."

The CTCC concluded: "Following the unhappy episode of the reduction in cheap day return discounts, BR needs to take positive action to reassure its Disabled Person's Railcard holders that they remain valued customers."



Michael Gallagher, 18, from St John Rigby VIth Form College, Wigan, has been named Young Engineer of the Year for a safety kettle he invented for people with visual impairment or arthritis. Irene Taylor, who is blind, called it "a wonderful invention."

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Further details from: Headway National Head Injuries Association, 7 King Edward Court, King Edward Street, Nottingham NG1 1EW. Tel: (0602) 240800.

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## Charter for DLA

Disabled people phoning the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Unit in Blackpool should get an answer within 30 seconds, according to the Unit's new Citizens' Charter.

Publication follows thousands of complaints and several reports damning the Benefits Agency for its handling of the introduction of DLA (DN, June). People complained about ringing all day without an answer and waiting up to a year for claims to be settled.

The Charter also promises to acknowledge renewal claims within five days and decide on them within 30 days.

By the end of June 874,000 DLA claims had been made. Of these, 26,000 are still waiting to be cleared.

There are 17 claims received before January 1993 which are still outstanding.

## Scots get hotel ramp

Disabled Scots visiting Arthritis Care's Burnlea Hotel at Largs, Aberdeenshire, will now be able to wheel their way straight from Largs station to the hotel, thanks to a new ramp built by Arthritis Care with the support of ScotRail.

"The ramp will make a great difference to our guests in gaining easy access to the hotel, station and town centre," said hotel manager Gordon Jack.

\* Arthritis Care Week, 11-18 September, will be celebrated by various events, including the launch of two, free, leaflets. *Living with Arthritis* gives information on services and support offered by the charity's 570 branches and 70 Young Arthritis Care Contacts in the UK. *Working with Arthritis* tackles issues in the workplace and gives advice on how to deal with them. A *Good Practice Guide for Employers* wanting to employ people with arthritis is also being launched, and a "shadowing scheme" to help potential employees and employers get first hand experience of each other.

For free leaflets, send SAE to Arthritis Care, 18 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD.

### Noise order imposed

Continued from page 1

of the rights of people with learning disabilities to live in the community."

A council spokesperson said: "Local authorities have an obligation to investigate complaints from neighbours and community care homes are no different to any other premises."



# Give us our human rights!

Mary Wilkinson reports on another step forward for the international disability movement

Disabled people are on the warpath. At their largest-ever meeting in Europe, appropriately at Maastricht in the Netherlands, 2-4 August, they demanded that the European Community (EC), the Council of Europe, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and individual governments accept disability as a human rights issue and equal opportunities as achievable only through social and economic change.

Asserting "our pride in ourselves as important, contributing citizens", about 450 disabled people from 41 countries in East and West Europe, and beyond, agreed a manifesto. They want "urgent action" to include disabled people in the European Convention on Human Rights and in the Maastricht treaty, and a European policy which takes on board the UN's Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Disabled Persons.

The EC must issue directives (legally binding on its 12 mem-



Some hard talking: a packed workshop on "defining strategies" for empowerment MARY WILKINSON

Favour of Action for Disabled People, announced that Europe will have its own Day of Disabled People on 3 December. The 518 seat European Parliament will be taken over for a human rights discussion by disabled representatives from member states, selected by their national organisations.

Blind people saw poor braille and tape services there as an infringement of their right to information, and DPI as wanting to have control of the disability movement in Europe. John Wall, chairman of the RNIB, said DPI is only one of five organisations, including the World Blind Union, accepted by the UN as representative.

Chairman of DPI Joshua Malinga said: "There is no way DPI is the sole representative of blind people. What we've said is each group has a right to represent its constituents."

Several people claimed there was a hierarchy in the disability movement. "Who isn't here? Who are the squeaky clean disabled people who are participating?" asked Donal Toolan from the Republic of Ireland.

Lesbian and gay disabled people were represented, and there was a short panel discussion. But Nigel Bull of People First, UK, was the only person with learning difficulties. "It's disgusting," he said. "Our issues are exactly the same."

Non-disabled people found some reassurance. Rachel Hurst, chairperson of DPI's

European Communities Committee, said: "none of this change of society need mean that people who have before



At two extremes: Irene Pereira (left) from Portugal, where "rights" hardly exist, and Judy Heumann (right) doyen of independent living in the USA, who has a key government job.

supported disabled people will be redundant - far from it."

## Fighting for rights?

She explained how Europe lags behind the rest of the world

(and the UN) because, for all the rehab support available, it does not see disabled people in human rights terms.

Research by Dr Theresia Degener from the UN in Geneva underscored this point. A human rights workshop produced many examples of discrimination.

A few people disliked "fighting", preferring persuasion. Others wanted "direct action." About 25 people, many from the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, met to hear about the Christchurch demo, Austrians going on hunger strike, 2,000 disabled people and supporters out on the German streets and Finns in yellow t-shirts calling themselves "crippled panthers".

For some people, such as Irene Pereira from Portugal,



Eur'Able will seem "like science fiction when I get back. We have no money, no legislation, people don't get together. My plea is, what can be done for countries like Portugal?"



Kalle Konkkola from Finland with the UK's Rachel Hurst

## Working together?

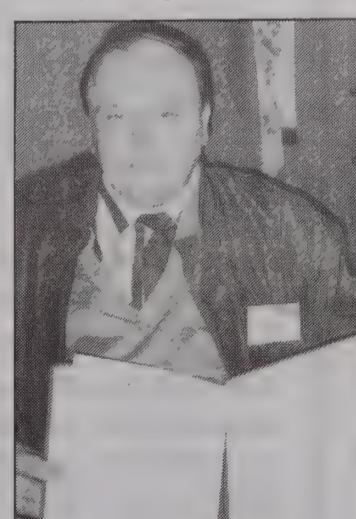
Kalle Konkkola, from Finland, chairperson of DPI Europe (which has offices in London, Helsinki and Prague), explained the DPI philosophy: "Disabled people take their own life in their own hands. We know best what we need and what we want. We can represent ourselves."

But how to organise effectively?

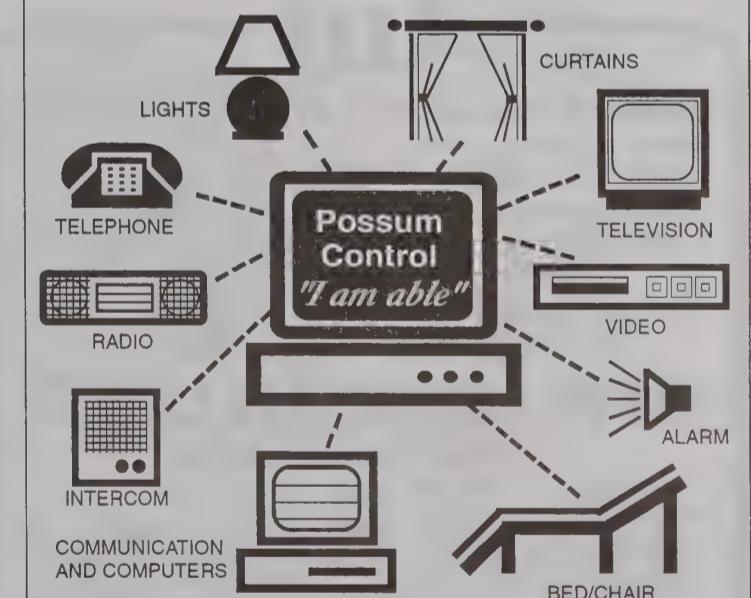
For people with different disabilities to work together, they must "feel safe" in their organisations, he said. "Everybody must have the right to join. This means also that organisations must be democratic with the majority respecting minorities."

Holger Kallehauge from Denmark, president of the Nordic Council of Organisations of Disabled People, argued for tolerance, equality and the right to speak for oneself within umbrella organisations. "This is the only way we can avoid endless splittings and weakening."

But divisions and discrimination did exist at Eur'Able.



The Republic of Belarus is the only state to have signed a reaffirmation of commitment to the UN World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons. Nikolai Kolbasko, (above), chairman of the Belarusian Society of the Handicapped, shows it off. Implementing it in a crisis economy is "a big problem".



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# Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

## Parking abusers

I was highly amused by your photo (angry able-bodied motorist caught parking in a disabled parking space) in the June DN.

Because of the frustration caused to our members due to



similar incidents, we printed two leaflets.

Cork Corporation recently asked our permission to print the yellow one (*see above*) on the back of all their parking discs - we have a disc parking system. This means that every time someone parks his car in the city centre, he is tactfully reminded to consider others and not to park on the footpath.

Perhaps you might introduce this over there too.

Beth Sherrard  
Secretary

Cork Access Group  
Midleton, Co. Cork.

## Pre-work training

Your feature "What the job barriers are ... and how they can be overcome" (DN, August) confirmed what many disabled people in the training world have already put into practice.

Action for Blind People has run pre-work training courses throughout the country for the last two years. The idea behind them is not to dictate, but to facilitate, allowing disabled people to determine their own needs and requirements.

On a typical course, disabled people who are in meaningful employment are invited to talk to the group about their experiences and pass on good advice. Personnel officers are invited too, with a double purpose: to inform the trainees of their selection and interview methods, and to see for themselves what disabled people can do.

Assistance with the whole process of applying for and taking up employment is available from disabled people with first-hand experience, and so is expert advice on welfare rights. Trainees can also try out various kinds of specialist

equipment.

The accent throughout is on the empowerment of disabled people, who know better than any "experts" what they need.

For too long, training courses have concentrated on what able bodied people think disabled trainees should do. They seem to equate qualifications with jobs, and one does not necessarily follow the other.

Given the right attitude and a willingness to think around the problems, most aims are achievable.

**Susan Bennett**  
Course tutor  
Action for Blind People  
Premier House, Church Street  
Preston PR1 3BQ

## Disability arts breakthrough

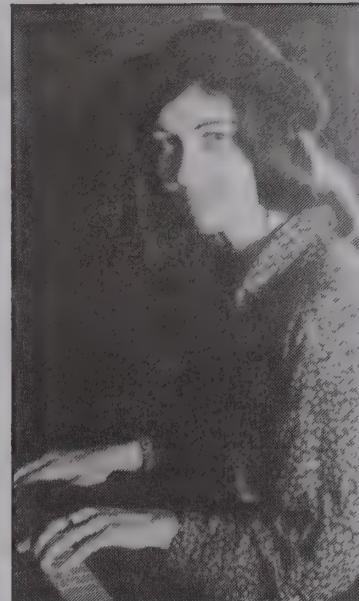
I am writing to tell you about the Horniman Museum Arts Day in London on 10 July. It was a day of art, theatre, music, poetry and dance by people with disabilities.

I think this event is an important development as it shows how mainstream venues are staging disability arts events in their mainstream roster.

I first noticed the shift in emphasis when Radio Four's mainstream arts programme *Kaleidoscope* invited my own band to play a live set after the Islington Disability Arts Festival in May.

Stream Records, my record label, which distributes disabled artists' music, was asked to help organise the Horniman day. This is not able-bodied people dictating what should be staged, but disabled individuals bringing the disability arts culture into the mainstream arts arena.

Disabled individuals and



Genie Cosmas of the band Fish Out Of Water

organisations should know what is beginning to happen and encourage mainstream arts organisations in their own areas to put on similar events. Anyone wanting advice on staging an event can contact me.

**Genie Cosmas**  
77a Hindmans Road  
London SE22 9NQ

## Career civil servants?

DN gives big publicity to the fact that "Two career civil servants are moving into the voluntary sector as chief executives" (June). Are we meant to be reassured? I would prefer to think that disability organisations such as the Spastics Society and Motability would appoint disabled people as their leading officers.

Disabled people are hardly likely to trust former social security chiefs, especially those with such close connections to the Tory party.

**Tom Shakespeare**  
Bill Quay, Gateshead

## Pats on the back to ...

Bond Hotel, 120 Bond Street, South Shore, Blackpool FY4 1HG. "An excellent holiday hotel that catered especially for disabled people in wheelchairs." Graham Farrell, General Manager, SOS (North)

Harborough Battery Services, 4 Morley Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, tel: (0858) 431846. "Mr Ashton spent many hours and travelled many miles on my behalf in order to repair my electric wheelchair. Wheelchairs are not his business, but some companies were not willing to get involved because Chairpower had folded. Prices for Mr Ashton's batteries (part of his standard trade) are very reasonable." Eileen Jarvis, Coalville, Leicester

Toyota dealers Hylton of Worcester, Hylton Road, Worcester, WR2 5JN, tel: (0905) 748414. "Excellent service ... from our very first visit to having our new vehicle delivered, all the staff have been courteous, helpful and friendly. Facilities at the garage are excellent and endless coffee is on tap!" David and Delis Joynes, Worcester

**sic**

## Rock with anger

No sooner had the ink dried on the Broadcasting Standards Council's new, tougher guidelines on offensive language, than Bobby Davro's *Rock with Laughter* show took a blowtorch to them.

A so-called comedian on the BBC's 27 July show told a joke about Siamese twins learning to drive (they have to go to America every six months so the other one can have a go, etc).

DN reader Peter West from Liverpool managed to stop screaming long enough to report the show to the Council, and the complaint comes before the committee on 18 August.

We wonder who will have the last laugh this time?

## After the happy hour ...

Tired, anxious, worried about everything? Never fear, the "worry half-hour" is here.

The Council for Involuntary Tranquilliser Addiction has just produced a new tape\* for "anxiety sufferers". Among the many excellent ideas is the "worry half hour" whereby you set aside 30 minutes to focus on your troubles so you can forget about them for the rest of the day.

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Tel/Fax(s): \_\_\_\_\_ DN 9/93

Richard Armitage talks to Bob Taylor, OBE, new chairman of the Disabled Person's Transport Advisory Committee (DiPTAC)

Bob Taylor spent 23 years in the Royal Air Force, flying 5,000 hours in 15 types of aircraft. Despite this relatively risky occupation, he emerged unscathed in 1973, retiring voluntarily with the rank of squadron leader. By 1974, he was assistant airport director at Birmingham Airport; became director in 1976, and managing director in 1987.

1976 was also the year Bob Taylor collected his "personal undercarriage", following a road accident. The irony is not lost on him: "To think I was finally shot down in a bloody car!" (Imagine how much time he spent communicating by radio whilst in the RAF, and you have the key to how he talks today. Despite 20 years in civvy street, Bob Taylor still speaks in short staccato bursts, accurate and to-the-point.)

#### A change of style

DiPTAC was set up under the 1985 Transport Act to advise the Government on the travel needs of disabled people. It sends its annual reports directly to the Secretary of State.

As chairman of its 20 members, Bob Taylor succeeds Sir Peter Baldwin. It is something of a natural progression. "I am used to pulling different groups of people together, and I have served on the Committee for three years already."

# High flyer at the controls

He will, however, be adopting a different style: "It will be a non-executive chairmanship. I simply do not have the time that Sir Peter was able to devote to the job. So things will be done differently, by delegating."

Interviewing him, he is reluctant to divulge what he considers to be "personal" details. His official cv doesn't mention his age, although he admits to joining the RAF as a trainee in 1950, which would make him in his sixties. He served in Egypt, Germany and Singapore, for which he earned the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air (1966), and was made an MBE in 1972. Married with no children, he lives in Kenilworth.

#### No-nonsense approach

Bob Taylor presents a no-nonsense, yet good humoured, face to the world, managing to remain approachable, despite many years in the driving seat.

He is in favour of minimum standards of access to buses being made mandatory. He is quick to point out that at one time wheelchair accessible toilets on aircraft "were considered totally unfeasible; now they are fitted on most new craft." He cannot see why buses should not be made accessible as well, and is very enthusiastic about the forthcoming low-floor bus trials in London and Newcastle upon Tyne.

He was also pleased that DiPTAC had been asked to prepare a Code of Practice for rail operators, post-privatisation. "The Committee is the

right machinery for drawing up the Code." He foresees it being enforced via the franchising mechanism, with requirements written into contracts.

He is also concerned that the possible licensing of minicabs in London could drive accessible

only extra-curricular activity. He is chairman of Disability West Midlands (formerly West Midlands Council for Disabled People). He is also a board member of CENTEC, Central England Training and Enterprise Council, and chairs its sub

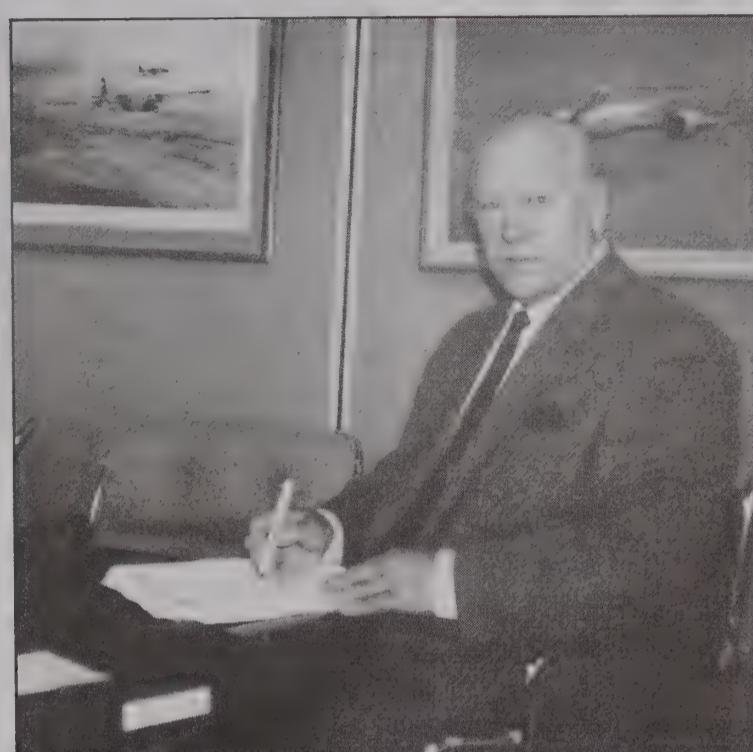
terms of passengers. Last year was profitable, to the tune of £5.08 million (pre-tax), on a turnover of £46.9 million. Over 3.8 million passengers passed through, a 12.6 per cent increase on the previous year.

#### Madame Scrivener's loo

If most of the airport's customers find access fairly good, Bob Taylor is clear that having a wheelchair user in charge has made a difference. But he takes a pragmatic view about how much can be done with old design and construction: "Our new building made life much easier."

"I find the mix of private concern with professional activity works well. A couple of years ago I visited Brussels to lobby the European Commission on behalf of Europe's regional airports. The meeting was at the EC's Berlaymont building ... I had to use the tradesman's entrance to get in, and as there were no accessible loos, I ended up using [EC Commissioner] Madame Scrivener's personal loo! Afterwards, I wrote to several MEPs, and the Commission has now promised that their new building - currently being built - will be accessible."

*Richard Armitage was founding general secretary of the Community Transport Association, 1984-90, and now specialises in developing accessible passenger transport.*



Bob Taylor: a no-nonsense style

RICHARD ARMITAGE

taxis out of business. "I used two London cabs last Tuesday - one was a Metrocab and the other a Fairway - and they were both OK. What would happen if saloon-car minicabs can ply for trade in the same way as London taxis?"

DiPTAC is not Bob Taylor's

group on special needs. It has pushed for training for people with learning difficulties, ex-offenders and women returning to work: "We've got everything through the Board so far".

But his first work priority is Birmingham International Airport, the UK's fifth largest in

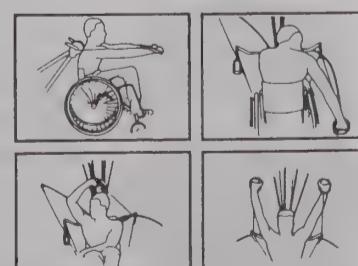
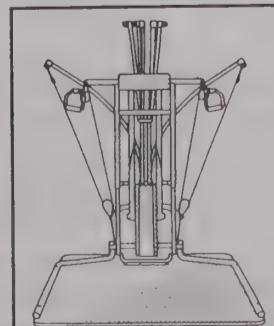
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# Student life: a breeze or a battle?

**Tom Walker, a visually impaired student, reports from his not-so-ivory tower**

If you thought going through higher education was a cushy number, then 30 years ago you might have been right. In those days, students had long hair and scruffy clothes out of choice. Now there's no option.

But the usual whinges aside - no money, poor accommodation - there are other problems facing disabled students that tend to be overlooked. Since I arrived at the Institute of Higher Education in Bolton in 1991 to do a BSc in psychology, facilities have gone from bad to worse.

In the first year, lecturers were more helpful, always asking if anything was going to pose a problem and finding ways around it. Now, it seems, we are left to our own devices.

Another problem is access. A new report from Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, says only four out of 40 fine art BA courses in England are accessible (see page 2). The Institute is a minefield of obstacles. Steps leading from reception to the canteen force wheelchair users to do a circuit of the building if they want to eat.

While you cannot blame the Institute for design faults in old buildings, you can blame them for mistakes in new ones, such as the Eagle campus.

Dr Richard Oxtoby, principal of Bolton Institute, said: "We have had a policy over the last few years to provide small amounts of money to improve access and it is something to which we have paid attention in our new building developments, such as the hall of residence and, to some extent, in the Eagle Campus." He hopes a ramp will be installed before the start of the next academic year.

Even if the building is made accessible, the nearby road is a very busy artery, posing a danger to students with sensory as well as physical impairments.

The latest developments in higher education are no help to disabled students either. What is happening at the Institute must be mirrored round the country. Planned increases in student numbers at the Institute - from 7,500 in 1993/94 to 9,000 in 1996/97 - are already causing us particular disadvantage.

**Tom Walker: "Facilities have gone from bad to worse."**

Dr Oxtoby maintained: "It will mean some changes in class sizes and approaches to learning. I wouldn't expect there to be a negative impact on the quality of provision to students."

But with more students around, staff are less able to offer as much help. Sometimes this is obvious: for example, they only have the time to operate equipment for me in the holidays. Mostly, though, there is just a general feeling that people are too busy and stressed to go and get books for you, etc. You feel guilty asking for help.

The other worrying development is "semester-based assessment" (SBA), an American concept whereby the

academic year is divided into two blocks of 16 weeks. Courses are separated into modules so as to allow greater student mobility from one university to another.

This could be seen as a good idea: disabled students could break off for a semester if the workload was too much, or they wanted to earn money.

But because exams are held in the week immediately after the course has finished, there is little time for revision. For most students, this is stressful. For disabled students, who need extra time for revision anyway, it is a nightmare.

SBA is still in its infancy. So far, organisations representing disabled students have not been deluged by people who

cannot cope. But concern is growing. Our department has practised SBA since last October, and the new arrangements are remorseless.

Dr Tony Stockman, chair of the Association of Blind and Partially-Sighted Teachers and Students, said: "SBA is unforgiving in terms of time-scale. Visually-impaired people have specific problems with respect to obtaining material in an accessible format, and if assessment occurs so soon after the end of tuition, students may encounter difficulties in having books transcribed into braille or read onto tape."

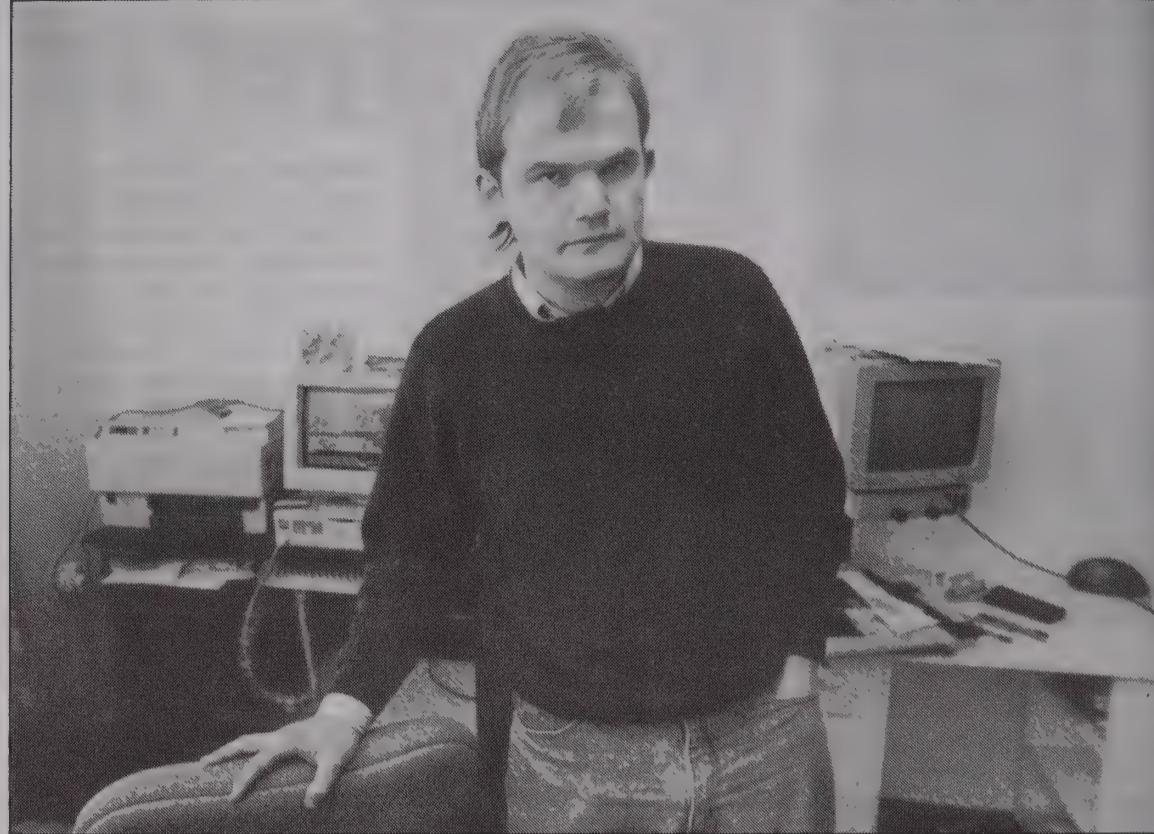
Gordon Dryden, head of support for visually-impaired students at the Royal National Institute for the Blind, is also concerned. "The pace of study will be intensified and the difficulties of acquiring material in braille or on tape will be compounded."

Dr Oxtoby conceded that a one week interval between the end of teaching and the beginning of exams was inadequate. "Assessment at the end of the module poses problems for any student, it must therefore pose additional problems for those students who would require additional time for reading and revision. I feel that students ought to have as long as possible to prepare for extensive written exams."

He is promising a review. "The whole question of assessment and its pressures is something we need to look at."

College staff should be reconsidering next year's examination procedures now. And they should be asking disabled students for their views on how the changes can be most comfortably implemented. Until they do, disabled people will continue to be denied many of the opportunities education has to offer.

*See Checkout, page 27. DN would like to hear from other disabled students. Address page 2.*



PAUL HERRMANN

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1.0 litre at £6,890 to the top of the range 1.3 Super S. All available under the Motability scheme via contract hire or hire purchase. For further details, call 0345 800 600.

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## MAGAZINES

# Kaleidoscope

*Kaleidoscope* is an American magazine, published twice a year, which sets out to explore the experience of disability through creative writing and the arts. It says of itself: "The portrayals of disability in these pages are real and powerful. They reflect a conscious effort to challenge and overcome stereotypical, patronising and sentimental attitudes about disability."

Fine words, but does the magazine live up to them? On the whole, yes.

Politically, the magazine is

disability within the lives of individuals and those around them.

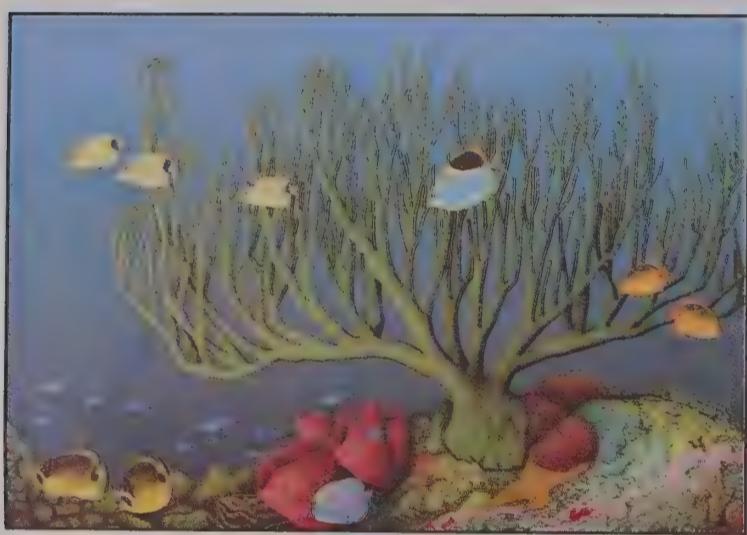
Each issue has a theme. The Summer/Fall edition focuses on "disability and chronic illness", although this relates only slightly to many of the contributions.

*Broken vessels*, by Andre Dubus, is a rambling autobiographical piece. After becoming disabled through a road accident, Mr Dubus relates his spiritual awakening to the need to let go of his past and find his real self,



*Amazonia*, by Paul Andrew Bean. Mr Bean has just sold two paintings to Jean Kennedy Smith, President Kennedy's sister and US ambassador to Ireland. For more information on his limited edition prints and posters, contact Paul Andrew Bean, 1245 Safford Street Oroville, California 95965.

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*Enchanted Depths*, by Paul Andrew Bean

very much in the American liberal tradition, seeking to broaden the reader's understanding of the nature of

which is most clearly expressed by his love for his daughters.

Seeking strength from the spirit to overcome impairments

of the body is also central to the feature on Angelina Hekking. She turned first to photography and then to the Eastern traditions of Yoga and T'ai Chi to regain control of her body from MS. She has just published *Seeds of Light: Images of Healing*, a book of photographic self-portraits and journal entries which document her physical and emotional struggle.

Also featured is the work of Paul Andrew Bean, a painter who became disabled early in

his career. His strongest influences are environmental conservation and the paintings of Henri Rousseau, whose ability to simplify nature and paint its underlying patterns he greatly admires. The results are luminous, dream-like images of forest and underwater life. Rather idealised for my taste, but nonetheless striking and seductive.

The magazine describes itself as international, but in this issue all the contributors

are American, the international editors are based in Paris and subscriptions are only accepted in US dollars. If they improved UK distribution, it might make an interesting addition to our existing disability arts publications.

Adam Reynolds

\$17 a year to individuals, \$22 organisations. Sample copy \$4. Also on tape. Contact Kaleidoscope Press, United Disability Services, 326 Locust Street, Akron, OH 44302-1876.

smelling strongly of tar! When it is hauled up to the gallery, it will link up with closed circuit TV to show a cast of a figure inside. This big black block, called simply "The Box" is how Patricia Powell-Beaver visualised herself during her period of complete blindness. No matter how her brain told her where she was or what she was doing, she remained trapped in this enveloping and constricting darkness. A powerful image. On hearing her speak about it, you almost joined her in this deepest dark.

As for the seminar, it was useful and fascinating. Marcus Weisen and William Kerby (both pioneers in helping to make art accessible to blind people) gave talks, and we heard about the *Water Reflections* project, from which the exhibition evolved.

The absence of the exhibition sharpened the questions afterwards, and left me reflecting whether there IS an answer to "the question of vision". Perhaps there is no one answer, and it is a continuing experience shared by sighted and non-sighted persons alike.

Gioya Steinke

## Buy Christmas cards by DN artists!



**Village Scene** by June Mills (above, 10 cards for £2.55) and

**Revelling Reindeer** by Gemma Pink, 13, (right, 10 cards for £2.15) were both shortlisted in the DN Christmas card competition, open to artists with disabilities.

Order them early, and you won't be disappointed!



## Special 1993 catalogue



The Spastics Society's revamped 1993 catalogue is bursting with cards and gifts you can order comfortably from home. There are two DN cards (see left), porch lamps and fisherman's scales made in the Society's regional centres and an exclusive designer t-shirt. Send for your copy now!

Write to Spastics Shops Ltd, Freepost, PO Box 66, Burton upon Trent DE14 1BR, or tel: (0283) 510111 and say you are a DN reader.

## EXHIBITION

### A Question of Vision

*A Question of Vision* at the Laing Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne promised a seminar and an exhibition exploring "new ways and means of producing artworks based on forms of perception". On the day it was due to open, the question was "Where is the exhibition?" Technical hitches, unfortunate timing and bad luck delayed the opening in July, greatly disappointing the 60 visitors and the five visually impaired artists.

Strangely enough, the absence of the exhibition meant that the audience had a chance to make closer contact with the artists and really listen to their "stories". The work reflects their personal experiences of space, journeys, sound, memories and their home city. These experiences are (or should have been) brought to life using video, sound, light and tape-slides.

The one piece of sculpture was looming large in the foyer,

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## FILM



Andy Kimpton-Nye

**Passionfish**

*Passionfish* (15) is a tears and laughter tale of an actress "coming to terms" with her newly-acquired disability.

Later on in the movie, the disabled May-Alice (Mary McDonnell) has a meeting with the guy in charge of the soap opera she once starred in. He wants her back in the show (disability and all) and waxes lyrical about how he can get maximum dramatic mileage out of May-Alice's impairment. The cinema audience is expected to laugh at the crude stereotyping tactics the soap genre will stoop to.

But the trouble is that *Passionfish* itself fails to rise above the same level of unimaginative representation it pokes fun at. It's a bit like laughing at the mote of prejudice in someone else's eye, while disregarding the giant beam of negative imagery in your own.

**Video top five**

CC: closed captions, S: subtitles, N: nothing.

1. BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA (20/20 Vision) Coppola's Dracula actually, and a visual treat. (CC)

2. DEATH BECOMES HER (CIC) Deadly unfunny comedy with Streep and Willis. (CC)

3. A FEW GOOD MEN (Columbia Tri-star) Fine courtroom drama with Tom Cruise. (N)

4. HOME ALONE 2: LOST IN NEW YORK (Fox Video) Home Alone 1 goes away to New York. (CC)

5. THE BODYGUARD (Warner Video) Romance/rock 'n' roll/Costner/Houston. (CC)  
Andy Kimpton-Nye

Chart courtesy of MRIB.

**ARTY-FACTS****Send us a card**

The London Disability Arts Forum (LDAF) is looking for a disabled person with knowledge of publishing or marketing to carry out a feasibility study into postcards featuring original works of disability art. Fee £2,100 plus expenses of up to £400. For more details



Chantelle (Alfre Woodard) gets close to May-Alice (Mary McDonnell)

Before the "comeback meeting" we've already seen how May-Alice became disabled following a run-in with a rogue taxi. She gives up her acting career and withdraws to her parents' old home in the Louisiana swamplands. There's enough bitterness, alcohol abuse and "what's the point of it all?" going around to keep *Brookside* in business for a couple of months. It's a classic example of the disabled person as her

own worst enemy (male movie equivalents crop up in *Coming Home* and *Born on the Fourth of July*).

Eventually, the primitive magic of the cajun country enables our tragic-but-brave heroine to strike up a meaningful friendship with her carer, Chantelle (Alfre Woodard).

As far as screen representation of disability goes, there is no new ground broken here. This is odd, as

director John Sayles has a sound track record for looking at social difference in his films - *The Brother From Another Planet* tells of a black extra-terrestrial landing in New York, *Lianna* focuses on a woman coming out as a lesbian and *City of Hope* features mental health problems on the streets.

On the evidence of this outing though, Sayles needs to re-think how he portrays physical disability.

Eye Contact Dance Company presents *Smell of Blue* at the Harrow Arts Festival, London, on 30 September. Sighted, blind and visually impaired dancers explore memories of childhood. For tickets, tel: 081-428 0124.

Photographer Leon Morris is putting on a new exhibition, *East West and Never the Twain Shall Meet*. Till 14 September. Tabernacle Gallery, London. Tel: 081-964 5740 (after 6pm).

Patrick Ladrière, who has been working with the European arts group CREAM (Creativity and Mental Handicap) since 1986, shows his paintings and drawings at the Centre for Developmental Arts Gallery in Glasgow till 3 September. Tel: 041-552 2822.

*Festival of Deaf Culture '93*. 25 September, Derby. Contact Wendy Daunt, Festival Organ-

contact LDAF (Postcards), c/o Diorama Arts, 34 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND. Tel and minicom: 071-916 5484. Closing date: 24 September.

**Here's to you, Ms Robinson**  
Stella Robinson, first registered disabled member of the Arts Council, has been asked to chair its arts and disability monitoring committee. She takes over from Mencap chairman Lord Rix, who resigned in June.

**Look out For**

isler, Royal School for the Deaf, Ashbourne Road, Derby. Minicom (0332) 763525.

Graeae Theatre Company's new production is *Soft*

*Vengeance*, by April De Angelis. The play tells the story of Albie Sachs, the South African civil rights lawyer who was disabled by a car bomb. 14-18 September at the Lilian Bayliss Theatre, London, then touring. Tel: 071-267 1959.

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## TV



Chris Davies

Very little disability interest on tv last month. *See Hear* (BBC1, Sundays) is still showing programmes originally screened on America's deaf and disability channel, *The Silent Network*. The first programme, already reviewed favourably, was made in 1979 (DN, August). Because of its age, I forgave the cheap appearance and tendency to over-explain things.

The four subsequent programmes were made later, but still looked cheap and were just a little patronising. America might have a 24-hour disability channel, but if it is as short of cash as this programme suggests, maybe it's not such a wonderful facility.

After the first of *Over the Edge* (BBC2, Tuesdays), did the series improve? (DN, August). The second programme was an abridged repeat of Kim Jessup's documentary *Sex and Independence ... What a Revelation*. Although it deserved a second showing, nothing new had been added.

The next programme, *Crip Charts*, wasn't new either. Most of the clips of disabled artists in performance were taken from old *One in Four* programmes. Ironic that the new, trendy, Disability Programmes Unit should find value in such "old-fashioned" material. It's more likely to be a way of saving money.

*On the Razzle* and *On the Town* were about female and male sexuality. Each programme featured two groups of people, one straight, the other gay, and followed them on a night out. I preferred Harriet Gaze's powerful portrayal of disabled women, not least because they were ordinary people, not known to TV. It was a bit disconcerting to see Mik Scarlet among the men, especially as he had already featured in the programme about disability arts.

The last *Over the Edge* was a drama, *Descant On Mine Own Deformity*, directed by David Hevey. It was a neat idea to have Shakespeare organising a disability charity campaign, but the programme plodded pretentiously. A five minute concept stretched to forty.

I really wanted to like this play, because it would have given some insight to viewers who didn't know the arguments against charity. A caricature is not the way to do this. Subtlety is.

Nevertheless, *Over the Edge* was an improvement on *From the Edge*.



# Your horse and carriage awaits

Jill Brown thought that disability would mean the end of her horse riding days. Then she heard about carriage driving

I have always loved horses and riding. Then, about 12 years ago, my back grew so painful and the muscles so weak (a form of muscular dystrophy they think now) that I had to give up.

Luckily, I heard about a carriage driving group which was just starting up. Everyone said "You'll never do that, your back won't cope," but it was anything to get back to horses - and I did.

Carriage driving is such fun. There's a great view from the cart, you are communicating with the horse, and there's a feeling of freedom.

You are also in control - as much as you want to be. An able-bodied person has to be in the cart before you get in and there are double reins, but if you can cope, they will let their reins go slack.

As I became more disabled, I was still able to go out driving. From managing the step and using a few cushions in a standard cart seat, I went to a support chair. Now I drive

people has been recognised since the '70s, when able-bodied drivers made arrangements to include us. Groups have started up all over the UK and around the world.

Each group organises and manages its own programme of activities, but they all belong to the Riding for Disabled Association (RDA).

The RDA has guidelines and rules. For example, hard hats must be worn for driving and one person must hold the pony's bridle while the disabled person gets in. The RDA also arranges insurance.

Two or more people are needed to help a disabled person into the cart, and when the "turnout" sets off there must be outriders fore and aft, usually on bicycles, to alert the traffic. Helpers seem to get as much pleasure from the outing as the driver.

In May each year the RDA holds an Annual Show at Windsor Great Park, which gives groups a chance to meet and compete against each other.



Jill Brown in control: in the cart you chat and learn the skills of driving

realise how therapeutic driving is for disabled people. You use many different muscles, and then there are the social and psychological advantages of everyone doing things together.

In the cart you usually chat and learn the skills of driving. These can be used for competitions - I surprised myself by winning the ambulant disabled class for novices in 1991.

Groups organise all sorts of activities. My group has summer barbecues and fund-raising events. In a few weeks'

time there will be a summer drive on a local farm. In the winter when it is too slippery and cold to go driving, we meet for a Christmas lunch and go carol singing to raise funds in a pony and cart. Then, from April to October, there is driving three days a week.

For people who want to learn more, the BDS organises exams in the theory and practice of caring for horses or managing harness (a disabled person would have a helper if they couldn't manage to harness a horse).

Carriage driving has made all the difference to my life since riding went out of it. Do have a go and see what I mean.

*For your nearest carriage driving group, contact the Riding for Disabled Association, Avenue R, National Agricultural Centre, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LY, tel: (0203) 696510.*

\* National Championships at Windsor Great Park, 10-12 September, 10am-6pm. £6, parking free. Tel: (0895) 677677.

## New Insurance Scheme to Help you "Keep Mobile"

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All aboard: Nick Gunning is helped into an adapted cart

from a wheelchair in an adapted cart which lets down at the back to make a ramp.

Someone I know who had a stroke and can use only one hand still goes driving: he controls the horse with a bar which he can tilt to the right or left. Any level of disability can be accommodated.

Carriage driving for disabled

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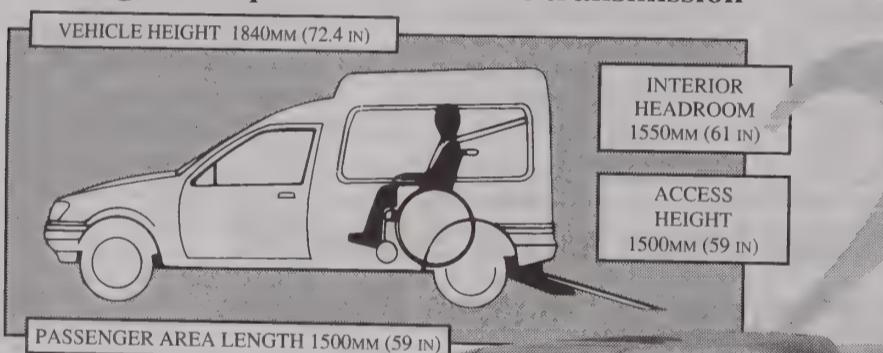
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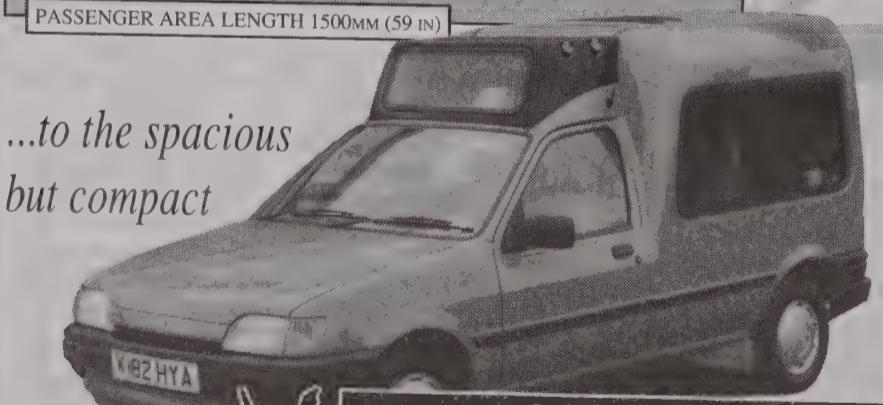
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The modern guide dog movement began with the German Red Cross Ambulance Dogs Association, which used dogs to find casualties on First World War battlefields. The first training course didn't take place in Britain till 1931.

Alfred Morgan, one of the earliest guide dog users, was a clerk with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in the 1930s. Before getting a dog, he had to have a colleague steer him through the dangerous dockyard site. With Bella, he could come and go like any other worker ...

The fact is that I have another pair of eyes. It is true that I cannot see the trees and flowers, but I can most certainly see the traffic and the crowds on the pavements, and the dug-up streets, and all the obstacles one meets in a busy street. I can see the trams, trains, buses and ferry boats - and use them whenever I have a mind to. And my guide is always there, ready and willing to take me wherever I wish to go. No waiting for someone's pleasure. Just put on my hat and off I go. And with a speed and safety that no blind man can hope for by himself.

Not everyone was as impressed with the dogs. In 1944 one woman wrote to her ex-boyfriend ...

I well remember the day in 1940 when you told me you were going for a dog. You talked of the new life which the dog would open for you. I could not see what was wrong with the old one! After your training you came back a changed man! My friends said it was a change for the better, but I don't think it was. You were not your old self. You found new sighted friends and you did not take things for granted like you used to do.

Since I gave you up for the sake of that dog I have got a new boyfriend. He is John Smith, a young man who has only been blind a year. The other day I found out from his parents that you had been talking to them about guide dogs. If you have a heart left in you, please leave John alone ... Archibald, I hated what they did to you! I shall break my heart if John gets like you."

Guide dogs are working dogs, there to make people more independent. But inevitably, a



## A friend and guide

*DN presents some extracts from Guiding Stars, a new book about guide dogs and the people they live and work with*

*bond develops, as George Elder found out ...*

One day I took her to see a vet who was attached to the veterinary college in Edinburgh, and as she was very lame I did not ask her to lead me, but took her on a leash. When I reached the town I was quite lost, as I did not know the lay of the land. Gilda saw that I was in trouble. She turned round and took the leash in her mouth and pulled me along the footpath.

I could feel the tears running down my cheeks. Poor Gilda was more in need of help than I was, but she did not think so and was willing to work till the end.

After Gilda died I was in a terrible position. I had developed my business during the year I had had her and now that she was dead I could not carry it on. I really felt the loss of my dog more than I did the loss of my sight. I was like someone who had been deprived of sight with a sudden stroke, and could only find my way about with great strain and difficulty.

My headaches returned and the strained look came back into my face. The carefree feeling left me and once more I felt that I could not keep it up for long, but must surely be an old man before my time.

I could not be blamed for

thinking that I could never get a dog to take Gilda's place; she had been more than a dog to me, and I felt that there could never be so kind and affectionate a friend as she had been. I was quite wrong, as I was soon to find out, for Lena, my new dog, is just as devoted to me and to her work and is a popular favourite with all my friends and acquaintances.

Once more I am a free man.

*David Scott-Blackhall, a veteran of Radio Four's In Touch programme, had his fair share of travelling adventures ...*

Sally used to assume that she was entitled to jump up on to the seat, if there was a spare one, so I always took care to

settle her firmly in the gangway, with muttered threats of dire consequences.

In spite of this, after three or four stops, there was a plop on the seat beside me. I immediately thrust out my hand to push her off, and at the same time growling impressively, "Get down!" My hand rested, not on a hairy Alsation, but on a trousered leg. "I beg your pardon," I said hurriedly, "I thought you were my dog."

I was answered by a deep and rather cultured voice. "I know, it's the shape of my ears. I'm often mistaken for an Alsation."

I thought this was an exceedingly comic remark in the circumstances, and I tried desperately to think of a witty riposte. "It might be worse," was all I could think of, "it might have been a young lady I was trying to push off the seat."

My companion sounded as if he was going to speak and then seemed to check himself. I felt we were at cross-purposes somehow, but I couldn't fathom out what was wrong.

Someone called out from lower down the coach, "I've got your ticket Marjorie."

"Thank you," said my companion with the Alsation ears. She said it in a rather subdued voice, as if she didn't want someone to know that she was the one who had been addressed.

It was a thousand miles to Borehamwood and I couldn't think of anything to say.

*Guiding Stars, £4.99. To order, see coupon below.*

### MODELS WANTED

Wannabe a fashion star? DN is searching for disabled models to take part in its "Look for a Lifestyle" series (DN, June '92). At the moment we are especially looking for students, managers, mums or dads and teenagers. No experience necessary. If you'd like to have a go, please contact the Editor, Mary Wilkinson, address page 2. Please enclose a photo and tell us a bit about yourself and your problems with clothes.



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# Share Your Problems

## When being different is a sign of strength



Ann Darnbrough, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

It seems I keep some strange company. Well, according to a quote by Michael Jones in *The Sunday Times*, "Over the past 20 years an assorted collection of sociologists, feminists, left wing ideologues and (wait for it) agony aunts have made the abnormal family into the norm".

Who is this Michael Jones? And what does he know about normality? I bet his aunties agonise over him. I wonder, what is an abnormal family?

Anyone with a disability will know all about being seen as abnormal. Happily, times are changing - albeit slowly. Differences are now being seen as strengths.

We all have something to contribute to this life. What some rather narrow-minded people fail to see is that there is strength in diversity.

### Painful prejudice

Unhappily, there is still much prejudice surrounding sex and disability and around the idea that disabled people are entitled to marry, set up home and have children.

You may remember the letter from Madhab who commented on the difficulties experienced by disabled people in the Asian community, where the opportunities for marriage are very limited. This struck a chord with Beena (not her real name).

She wrote: "In the Asian community, arranged marriages are very common and the matchmaking begins in your early twenties, in some 'stricter' families even earlier, for example 17 or 18. But if you're disabled, you have no hope! The matter isn't even discussed.

"This happened with myself. I watched my sister have an arranged marriage and the topic of me getting married was never brought up. Basically, in the Asian community it's 'too much' to accept a disabled partner. They tend to think, no matter what disability you have, that you cannot do anything - that you are a vegetable!

"It really makes me mad and I have had to try so hard to be accepted by people. But

my family are lovely, and we are a close-knit family.

"Some Asian families can treat the disabled person very badly just because they are disabled, which I think is so unkind.

"But English people can be just as bad and condescending, and commitment means nothing to anyone these days. Even if you are accepted by a partner, the community thinks that this is because the partner has taken pity on the disabled person or something like that. One has to be really strong and answer people back, and it's not easy. They don't think that you may have your own qualities."

Unfortunately, I could not reply to Beena as she was not able to give her address. I hope she reads this because I really appreciate that she wrote as she did.

### Parental pressure

What's so good about walking? In May, Chris Davies, DN's television critic, wrote about a programme where the parents of a disabled child had persisted in a relentless struggle to find "normality" for their daughter. Did your parents seek to make you "normal"? I asked readers who were disabled as children.

Mary (not her real name) responded by writing: "My parents sought to do what they thought was best for me. I had nine different operations, used callipers and used a walking frame.

"As a result of the pressure placed on me by society to be 'normal' and walk, I now have

acute arthritis. I use an electric wheelchair indoors and out. Once I gave up the struggle to walk I became free!

"All parents want to do what is best for their children. Unfortunately, they are obliged to rely on 'professional' advice which is often misguided. Professionals seek to cure disabled people. If they are unable to do so they feel a failure. This transfers to the disabled person, who internalises the blame and sees it as their fault.

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The DN telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is a psychotherapeutic counsellor, fully accredited Methodist local preacher, and qualified homeopath.

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Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582. DN's helpline is sponsored by The Wellcome Foundation Limited.

"Instead of rejoicing in our differences and accepting disability as our normality, we strive to achieve acceptance by emulating able-bodied people. One can excuse parents their misguided attempts at normality but can we excuse professionals? If able-bodied children were put through the horrors of conductive education, parents would be had up for child cruelty."

### Difficult decisions

I was glad to hear from a parent, who I will call June. She said: "I was fascinated to read the comments in your column about whether parents had made the correct decisions on behalf of their disabled chil-

dren regarding care and operations.

"Our daughter is seven-years-old and has spina bifida with hydrocephalus. We have spent the whole of her life fending off various orthopaedic surgeons that wanted to 'try this' or 'try that' operation, as we felt they would only restrict her.

"She crawls around at supersonic speed and uses a wheelchair with death defying accuracy. We find the best solution is to look away and to say 'be careful.' She learns her lessons like any other child - through bumps, bruises and elastoplast.

"To put her through unnecessary operations would give her so much worry and the chances of success - whatever that means - seem very hit and miss.

"We want her to be able to compete with her peers and be happy. She manages to do both very successfully - some things better, some things not so well. But so what! She's absolutely gorgeous."

June asks for other readers to comment. She questions, "Are we right to be like this or are we doing wrong by not having a go?"

### Controlling incontinence

June also asks for readers' experience of self catheterisation. She wants to know if there are any readers who use this method of controlling incontinence and, if so, is it satisfactory?

Another reader has raised questions about incontinence. He refers to "the escape of urine during sexual intercourse" and asks whether self-catheterisation can help to drain the urine before intercourse to avoid accidents. Some people who wear indwelling catheters retain these during intercourse. How easy is this in practice?

These concerns, I know, are shared by quite a number of people. Would readers who have experience in these matters write to me so that we can share problems and solutions?

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# Learning and living as a student

going to college this autumn? A neckout gives you some handy hints on studying and living away from home. To make sure you don't miss those nine am lectures, try the **audioline Timetrak CLR-1**. This talking radio alarm clock so switches from summer to winter time automatically when it receives a radio signal from the National Physics Laboratory. £39.99 from Littlewoods, Kays, Index and other retailers or tel: (0527) 5599.

Wheelchair users may find taking lecture notes easier with the **Clip on Wheelchair tray**. Made of lightweight plastic, it will clip onto the left or right side of most wheelchairs with armrests and can fold flat to the side of the chair when not in use. £16.25 (inc p&p, ex VAT). Tel: (0236) 764874.

For working back in your room, you could invest in an **adjustable Table** from Compa. For use with a chair or wheelchair, the top is cut away so you can tuck yourself right in and gain more support. A personalised made-to-measure service is available. Prices start from £79.50 (ex p&p and VAT). Tel: (0246) 411777.

If you find it difficult to hold a pen, the **Arthwriter** (far right) from Nottingham Rehab could be the solution to your problems. Roughly the size of a tennis ball, it has a 1cm hole in the centre for your pen or pencil and a screw which must be tightened to keep it in place. £11.55 (ex p&p and VAT). Tel: (0602) 52345.

Another useful item for your desk might be the **Heavy based Magnifier**. A flexible arm means the magnifier can be moved about to find the best position. £29.95 (ex p&p and VAT). Tel: (0602) 452345.

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top can be adjusted for both height and angle and comes with an optional side table. £65.00, side table £18.90 (inc p&p, ex VAT). Tel: (0236) 764874.

People with poor motor control, who find the standard qwerty keyboard difficult to use, may want to try the

access Microsoft's Windows by using a switch rather than a mouse. PS/2 or IBM PC compatible. £70-250. Tel: (0865) 63508.

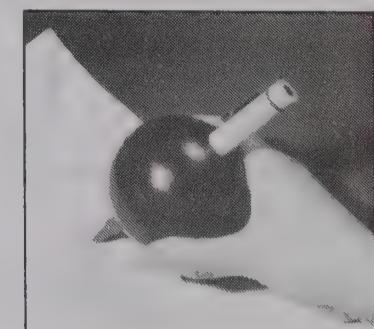
People with dyslexia may be grateful for the **Tandy WP-3** portable word processor computer from Tandy Education. It has a 100,000

worried that friends won't be able to get in in an emergency, you could try out **Break a Bolt**. Made of plastic, it works like an ordinary bolt but is designed to snap after a direct thrust. £2.95 (plus 75p p&p). Tel: (0752) 253633.

As a student, you will probably end up drinking plenty of coffee, especially to help keep you awake at exam time! To save you going back and forth to the kettle all day, why not try the **Flask Drinks Dispenser**? It is big enough to hold up to 20 drinks and will stay hot all day. To get your drink, put your mug in place and press and hold down the lever. £65.99 (ex p&p and VAT). Tel: (0602) 452345.

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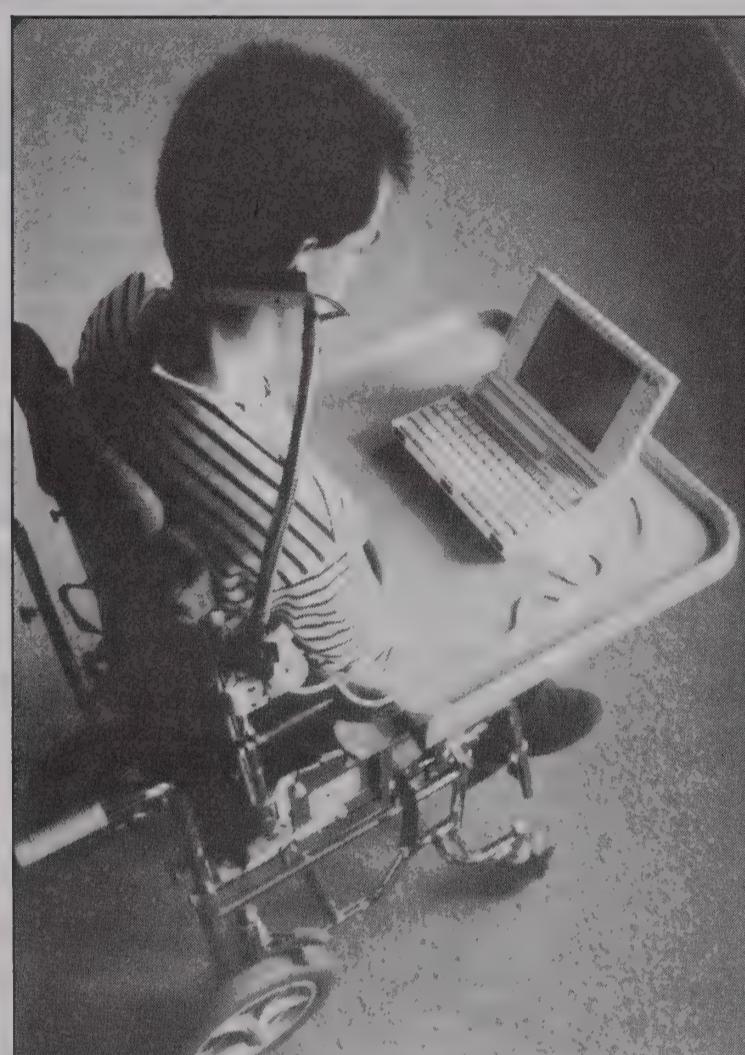


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Catherine Frame



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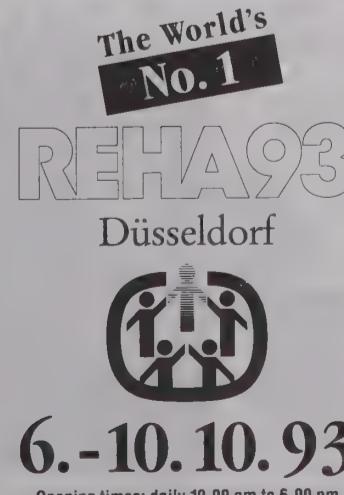
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Opening times: daily 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

designed with the disabled in mind. "Europa '93", integration at the workplace and home care are the focal points this year. Get up to date at the Forum and at the Congress. Receive advice from trade associations and from organisations. Enjoy the Sports Centre, the European Cultural Festival EUCREA and the Design Competition. Come to REHA 93. Welcome.

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DN9/93

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## ... NEWS QUIZ ... Answers page 35

1. Who was made King of Belgium?  
 2. Which monster movie was released?  
 3. On what issue did the Government lose a Commons vote?  
 4. Which country admitted it had forced women to work as prostitutes during World War Two?  
 5. Which education policy did the Government drop?
6. Who became Captain of the England cricket team?  
 7. How old was the Queen Mother?  
 8. Which university advertised itself on TV?  
 9. How much did magistrates award a woman who found the end of a thumb in her takeaway salad?  
 10. Which airline refused to let a disabled child travel on one of its planes?

**August winner**

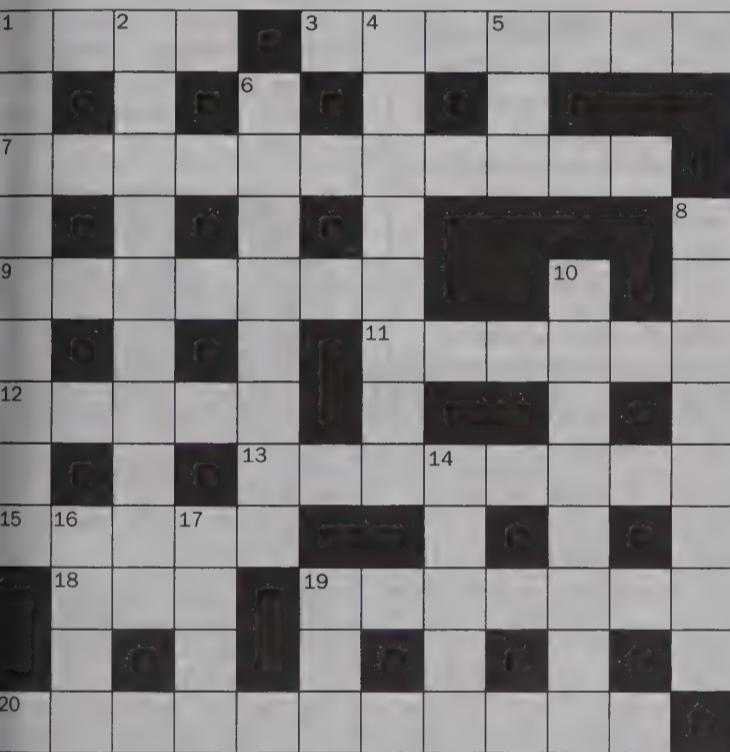
The £10 prize goes to Pat Holmes of Hele, Exeter, for (adopt Mae West drawl): "Well, honey, they said they catered for broads!"

Thanks to everyone who entered. If you haven't had a go yet, why not send us a postcard sometime ...

**DN's crossword**

Answers page 35

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS

**ACROSS**

- 1, 12, 1 down. Government's policy on former care home residents (4,2,3,9)  
 3. Strange person (7)  
 4. Extremely small (11)  
 5. No good (7)  
 6. Effect (6)  
 7. See 1 Across  
 8. Order of letters in a word (8)  
 9. Slang name for Americans (5)  
 10. The thinking self (3)  
 11. North Asian country (7)  
 12. Classically beautiful UK woman? (7, 4)

**DOWN**

1. See 1 Across  
 2. Making afresh (10)  
 4. Conclusive (8)  
 5. Large bread roll (3)  
 6. Without an abode (8)  
 8. Large tin (anag.)  
 10. Different types (8)  
 14. Monkey-like animal  
 16. Endless period of time (4)  
 17. Powder eye shadow (4)  
 19. Donkey (3)

Neville Halfpenny from Great Yarmouth says 'ello 'ello 'ello to London policeman Peter Clarke using Claudio II, a new portable speech communicator from BT. What could the PC be saying in reply? Is he pointing the way to the fancy dress shop where he bought that funny hat?

Answers please to DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, by 9 September.

\* For more information tel: (0800) 800150.

Win a £10 prize

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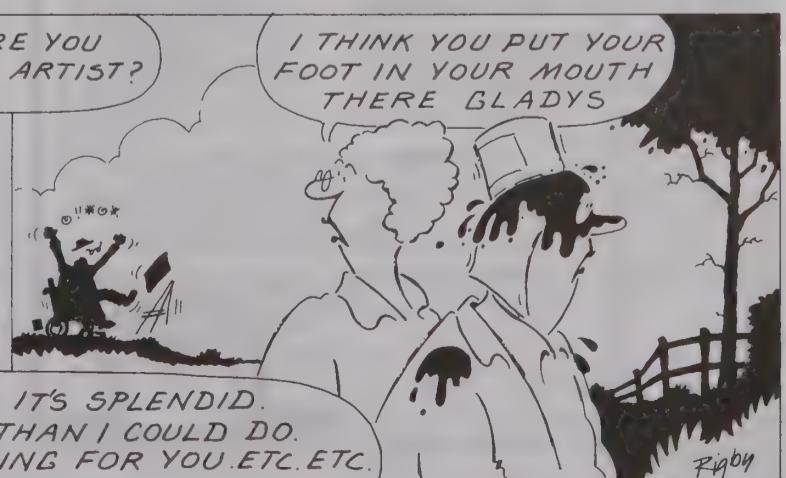
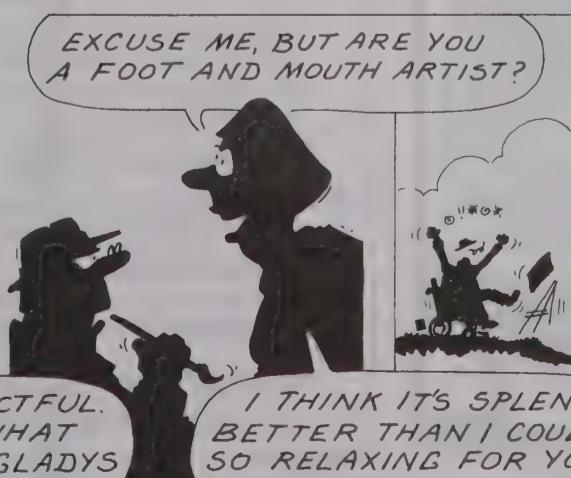
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**The Doings of Dan Nugent ("DN" to his friends) by Rigby****We've got it taped**

Did you know that DN is available on tape for visually impaired people or those who have difficulty holding a paper? At the moment, this service is free of charge. If you would like to receive the tape, contact Jenny Whitehead or Karen Bresloff on 071-383 4575.

## INFO

**Taking Your Benefit to Europe** costs £1 from the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB.

**Disability Awareness in Action** (DAIA) has produced its *Resource Kit No.3* on Campaigns. Contact DAIA, 11 Belgrave Road, London SW1V 1RB.

**Taking Stock and Developing Skills to Work with Professionals** are two training packs for self help groups from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). £5.75 each from NCVO's Publications, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL.

**Understanding Arthritis & Joint Replacement**, produced by Family Doctor Publications

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grave Road, London SW1V 1RB.

and the British Medical Association is free from Arthritis Booklet - DN, 163 New Kings Road, London SW6 4SN.

mation to disabled people, their carers and friends. To find out your local groups, contact Just The Job, tel: (0270) 501535.

stocked with programs suitable for children from 3-8 years and aims to provide variety at low cost. To join, tel: 081-866 332.

**Our Commitment to Older Disabled Customers**, a British Gas booklet, gives advice on safety, energy saving, paying bills and appliances and services for visually impaired customers. Free from any British Gas showroom.

**Community Care Resource Pack** from Mencap. £5 from Mencap Publications, Mencap National Centre, 123 Goldsmith Lane, London EC1Y ORT.

**The Goodnight Scheme**, run by South Cambridgeshire Social Services, provides volunteers to look after children so that parents can have an occasional evening out. If you are interested, either as a volunteer or a family needing help, contact Laraine Kaka, tel: (0223) 6973.

**Communication Works** runs courses with interpreters and loop system for deaf/blind and visually impaired people. Courses include flower arranging, self defence, massage and music for the deaf. Tel: (0494) 872076, minicom: (0494) 875258.



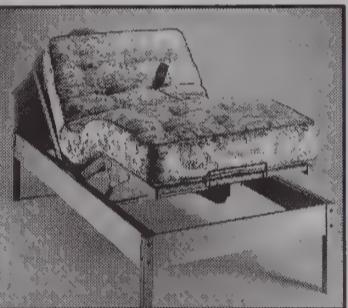
The Breakthrough/Hitachi Open Learning Centre For Deaf People in Birmingham was launched in June by Nicholas Scott, Minister for Disabled People. It opens for students this autumn. Details from Simone Moss, tel: 021-472 6447, fax: 021-471 4368.

**The Cheshire Disabilities Federation**, a network of user-led voluntary groups in Cheshire, provides local infor-

**The Computer Kids' Library** has been set up for children with special needs who use a BBC computer. The library is

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The Brian Blatchford Building (above), is home for the new School of Prosthetic and Orthotics in Salford near Manchester. The School will run the first honours degree in prosthetics and orthotics in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Contact Peter Bowker, tel: 061-745 5000.



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DESIGNER DISABLED APPLIANCES Ltd. are proud to announce the opening of a disabled resource centre, CARE HOUSE on Merseyside in early 1993.

For further information / demonstration. Please contact Designer Disabled Appliances Ltd. on 051-495 1244.

CAREHOUSE, 6 Poulton Green Close, Spital Cross, Bebington, Wirral, L63 9FS. Tel: 051-495 1244

**DESIGNER DISABLED APPLIANCES**

**Meeting the Personal and Sexual Relationship Needs Children and Young Adults with a Learning Disability** has been updated and now includes a section on training and resource material. £4.50 from The Library, Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG.

An International Special Education Congress (ISEC) will be held in Birmingham in 1995. The organisers are looking for papers from those who work with and care for people with special education needs. Send two copies to John Visser, ISEC Organiser, School of Education, University of Birmingham, B2TT. Deadline: 1 August 1993.

## WHAT'S ON

**rtage Empowers Parents.** A conference, 10-12 September, at Keele University, Staffordshire. Further details from Keryn Thompson, Sandwell Portage Service, 12 Grange Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 8PD, tel: 021-553 7411.

**Meeting for Disabled Women.** 11 September, 1pm-4pm, in Thornton Heath. Phone Paula at Greater London Association of Disabled People on (071) 274 0107.

**Employment Training and Open Day** for disabled people. 15 September, in Morden, Surrey. Contact Paul Oakley, tel: 081-545 81, minicom: 081-545 4172.

**horticultural Therapy Flower Show.** 16 September at Trunkell Park, near Reading. For details, tel: (0373) 464782 or (0734) 4844.

**ay Leisure Advice Network (PLANET).** Open days 18 September, 13 October and 18 November, in Radlett, Herts. Tel: 923) 854861 ext. 4384.

**aidex '93.** International Exhibition of Services and Equipment for Disabled and Elderly People, Nursing and Rest Homes. 28-30 September, at Wembley in London. For details, tel: (0892) 4027.

**rdinary People - Extraordinary Lives.** A conference on disability, 11 November in Ipswich. Contact the administrator, Mid Suffolk Rethink on Disability, Seminar Room 2, Stowmarket Library, Milton Road North, Stowmarket IP14 1EX. Tel: (0449) 70127.

**astle Priory**  
Children With Disabilities And Those Who Care For Them, 13-4 October, £180.  
Introduction to Holistic Massage, 6-8 October, £225.  
For details contact Castle Priory, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 0HE, tel: (0491) 837551.

**Are you a disabled professional working in the arts?** All Clear Designs, on behalf of the Arts Council, is doing an audit to find out how you developed your skills. Performers, musicians, writers, dancers, artists, poets, arts managers needed. Contact Jayne Earscliffe or Victoria Waddington at All Clear Designs, 107 The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY. Tel: 071-721 7480.

**Would you be interested in hiring a specially adapted motor caravan?** The Chalfont Line, which operates escorted holidays, tours and coaches, is thinking of adding one to its fleet next year. The vehicle would be based in West London. Comments and requirements, please, to Iain Gellatly, Chalfont Line Holidays Ltd, 4 Medway Parade, Perivale, Middlesex UB6 8HA.

**Artist launching 1000 balloons** with questions on them wants suggestions from disabled people. Exhibition in October. Send question suggestions to Chris Grottick, 66 Windermere Pt, Tustin Estate, Old Kent Road, London SE15 1DZ.

Tim Hoy is writing a book about people with diabetes, their hobbies and jobs. If you are into rock climbing, photography, bee keeping, motor cycling, or anything else

## HELP!

that would interest others, please write to him at 8 Donnington Road, Willesden, London NW10 3QN.

**Wheels for Bulgaria** is a project to send 100 good quality wheelchairs. Contact the New Stagers Theatre Group, tel: (0883) 623026.

**New business needs self-employed, disabled consultants** who can try out products. For more details, contact Julie McLeod, ConsultABLE, 150A Church Lane, London SW17 9PU.

Jo Pearson wants to hear from creative women who have epilepsy (writers, artists, photographers, etc) for a research project. Send letter with brief details to her at 37 St Julian's Farm Road, London SE27 ORJ.

The Association of Disabled and Elderly Persons (ADEP) wants second hand wheelchairs and crutches to send to disabled and elderly people in Africa. To help, contact Mr E Seguya, coordinator, ADEP, Room 4, Essex House, 375-377 High Street, Stratford, London E15 4QZ, tel: 081-519 3267.

Are you a wheelchair user who is unsuitably housed and waiting to move? If so, the National Wheelchair Housing Associations Group (NATWHAG) wants to hear from you to help with their campaigns. Contact Toks Fajemirokun, project officer, NATWHAG, c/o John Grooms Association, 10 Gloucester Drive, London N4 2LP.

## MOVES

Ed Gallagher is now a trustee of Living Again. John Rolfe has retired as marketing director at Remploy. Rita Stringfellow has been elected chair of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities social affairs committee and the North of England Assembly social affairs committee. Stephen Twigg is now parliamentary officer for the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

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**LARK TRIUMPH ELECTRIC SCOOTER** by Orthokinetics, cost £1,895 new. As advertised in *Yours* magazine. Tel: (0582) 28082.

**AUTOCHAIR MINIHOIST** one-and-a-half years old, new £1,840, will accept £800 ono. Tel: (0202) 2893406 (Bournemouth area).

**BEC STERLING SCOOTER** with charger and travel cape. 8 months old, very little used, £800 ono. Tel: (0895) 253032.

**CARTERS CHEETAH POWER-CHAIR**, new in July 1992 and not used since end of 1992. Red frame, standard 16in seat, right hand joystick, new tyres and footrests, tray. vgc. £2,500. Tel: (0249) 720841.

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**LARK MOTOR SCOOTER**, £450 ono. Tel: (0354) 692199 (Chatteris).

**E&J RUNAROUND SCOOTER**, vgc, £600 ono. Tel: (0734) 784925 (Reading).

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**BEC HORIZON ELECTRIC OUTDOOR WHEELCHAIR**, with kerb climbers, never been used. Cost over £2,000 new, for sale at £1,500. Tel: C. McGonagle, (0706) 842461.

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**CAPES MADE TO MEASURE**, for details send SAE to Brenda Redmile, 32 Cherry Tree Ave, Leicester LE3 3HN.

**ADJUSTABLE BED**, head/foot, lift/massage, vgc, £700 ono. Tel: (0253) 826931.

**EVERAIDS TURBO WHEELCHAIR**, hardly used, spare wheels, £400. Tel: (0642) 314140.

**ORTHOKINETICS THREE WHEEL CHAIR**. Electric, MOT. 2 months old. £900. Reasonable and genuine reason for sale. Cost £1,800 new. Tel: (0270) 587314.

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**EPC EQUIPMENT FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED**  
Specialising in:  
**LIGHTWEIGHT, RIGID & FOLDING WHEELCHAIRS**  
• Authorised dealer for Quickie, Swede and Action Technology  
• Home demonstration of products  
• Servicing, spares and repairs  
• Adult and children's wheelchairs  
FOR A BROCHURE OR FURTHER INFORMATION:  
Tel/Fax: 0252 547939  
156 Alexandra Road,  
Farnborough, Hants GU14 6RY  
**OR OUR NEW OFFICE IN COVENTRY**,  
Tel/Fax: 0203 422327  
*A company run by the disabled - for the disabled*

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 3-DOOR ESTATE**, auto, B reg, 34,000 miles. One owner, £1,450. Tel: 081-908 0126.

**CHAIRMAN METRO F** reg, 39,500 miles, £3,500 ono. Tel: (0773) 824310.

**NISSAN VANETTE** 1,500 with 200k electric tail lift. D reg, 16,480 miles. Two passenger seats. Safety belts and anchorages for wheelchair. Blue, 5-speed. Excellent condition, MOT Feb 1994. £4,495. Tel: (0491) 572478 (Henley on Thames).

**POIRIER WHEELCHAIR**. Full recliner, red padded seat. Suit tall person, used 1 year only. Cost new £1,490, accept £500. No offers. Details from MFL Jones. Tel: 071-739 2408.

**ORTHOKINETICS LARK TROMPH 3 WHEEL SCOOTER**. Used once £1,700 ono. Original price £1,935. Tel: (0582) 712471.

**BEC HORIZON** portable electric wheelchair with charger. New batteries perfect condition. Originally £2,000. Will accept £1,200 ono. Tel: (0268) 286290.

*Disability Now is not responsible for the claims made in the advertisements it prints. Readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.*

## PROPERTY FOR SALE

**DETACHED SPACIOUS BUNGALOW** in pleasant area on edge of Country. Paraplegic owner will sell for £76,500 or exchange for south coast property. Two double bedrooms. Gas central heating. Large lounge with gas coal effect fire and ramped patio door to garden. Kitchen fully refitted in light oak. Bathroom with sliding door. Double glazed with window handles within reach of wheelchair. Large garage with electrically operated door. Tel: (0203) 466373.

**TWO-BEDROOMED FLAT, LONDON SE9**. Newly fitted kitchen and bathroom. All rooms accessible to wheelchair. £59,000. Tel: (081) 670 5204.

## COURSES

**CERTIFICATE IN MULTIPLE DISABILITY**  
This modular course provides the skills and knowledge staff require to meet the complex needs of multiple disabled people.

The course is recognised by CCETSW, ENB and is being assessed for SCOTCATS.

Flexible delivery throughout the UK. Next course starts on 15th January 1994 in Stirling University.

Contact: Sheila Lindsley. Tel: 0847 66161. Fax: 0847 63872.

## SERVICES

**Adam Price Accessible Vehicles**  
If you need a vehicle to carry up to five seated passengers and a wheelchair but your budget will not stretch to a new one, contact us.  
\* Used accessible vehicles supplied  
\* Access conversions to your vehicle  
\* Passenger use and access conversions to used vans  
\* Realistic prices  
\* Any make supplied  
Our comprehensive service includes locating a suitable vehicle, processing H.M. Customs & Excise requirements and delivery to your door. Tel/Office (0202) 814112, Mobile (0860) 620779

**SEND US YOUR SMALLS...**  
...and make a big impression. Small ads in *DN* reach over 70,000 people for just £3 a line.  
All small ads must be paid for in advance. If you want to advertise, please use the form on the left. Send it and a cheque for the total to *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

## Classified lineage advertisements

Please use this form if you are a private individual and want to place a classified advertisement. Write clearly in block capitals. Remember to allow a space for each comma or full stop and a space between words. Use each space in the line even if you have to split words at the end.

(Part of the first line will be in bold capitals)

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Send this coupon with your name and address, daytime telephone number and a cheque for the total made payable to *Disability Now*, to: 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. *DN* reserves the right to edit advertisements if necessary at no additional cost. Completion of this form does not guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. Sorry no refunds. *DN* is a non-profit making newspaper.

**HOLIDAYS**

**ENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL**  
"1992 Holiday Care Award Winners"  
holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service. Please ring or write for colour brochure.  
T&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (0208) 850277 or 850617.

**INGS Sailing for the disabled.** Sailing cruises for disabled and/or able bodied people. With only our guests to care for the skipper and crew can provide that most essential personal touch. Sit back and enjoy or become totally involved, the choice is yours. Most competitively priced. Details: Tom or Anne King (0963) 34767. Or write to 5 Rowan Close Wincanton, Somerset BA9 9SG.

**White House Farm, Herefordshire.** Self catering, 2 bed, ground floor open plan apartment. Very good wheelchair access. Indoor heated pool. Carp lake, gardens. For free brochure phone Graham Mitchell on (0432) 761202.

**Mar Y Sol - Tenerife.** Wheelchair accessible apartments. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, poolside bar, equipment hire. Ring today for video and cheapest prices on flights.  
**Algarve - Portugal.** Wheelchair friendly luxury villas in Portugal with swimming pools or mini hotel with adapted rooms.  
Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX. Tel: (0753) 685718.

**Winged Fellowship** provides respite care for severely physically disabled people and their carers at five UK holiday centres. One-to-one care. Write/phone for brochure:  
Angel House, 20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD (tel: 071-833 2594).

**HOTEL CIMON**  
September 18th-24th  
Special Offer  
£140 per person B.B.E.M.  
7 days/6 nights

Price includes one full day and two half day coach excursions plus sing-a-long, bingo, karaoke night, and fancy dress party night. Full itinerary organised for the duration of your stay. Also optional trips to theatre, model village and boat trip etc.  
For further details, Mrs Knott, Torquay (0803) 294454.

**YORKSHIRE DALES**  
Self-catering cottage adapted for wheelchair visitors. Newly converted barn on high moorland, between Pateley Bridge and Grassington. Beautiful views. Sleeps up to 5. Comfortable, well-equipped. Children, dogs welcome. Phone: (0423) 711747.

**FRIENDSHIP AGENCIES**

**For people with disabilities.**  
Be assertive and join Handidate.

The Wellington Centre  
52 Chevallier Street  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB.  
Telephone: (0473) 226950

081-958 9657  
6 Park Grove Dates Social  
Edgware Disabled contacts  
Middlesex A better life provided.  
HA8 7SJ (All areas)

**Anybody Any Age Able-bodied or Disabled.** Choose Your Own Ideal Relationship. **Mutual Essential Links**, 1 Weir Street, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5HL. Tel: 0606 49093 (24hrs).

**EXHIBITIONS**

**HUMBERSIDE DISABILITY & MOBILITY EXHIBITION**  
to be held at  
**Hull Exhibition Centre**  
Freightliner Road, Hull  
Sunday 12th September 1993 from 10am to 5pm  
**ADMISSION FREE**  
An exhibition for People with Disabilities  
\* Ample Parking \* Refreshments \*  
\* All Under Cover \*

Exhibition Organisers: D.M.P. Promotions (UK) Ltd, P.O. Box 38, Barnsley S75 1YZ. Tel: 0226 386677 or Fax: 0226 390777.

**SUNNY TENERIFE**

**Fully Accessible Mar y Sol**  
"Brilliant" says BBC TV  
Holiday Apartments  
Brochure: Lynne James Ltd, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

**"SOUTHDOWN"**

A Holiday Home for the Disabled. 1 St Mary's Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex. Tel: (0255) 672790. Offering full board and an awareness of the holiday needs of our less mobile guests and their carers.  
**RING OR WRITE FOR OUR BROCHURE**  
(Administered by the Southend Holiday Home for the Disabled Trust - a registered charity.)

**GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED**  
Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT  
**Telephone: 0598 710241**  
Open all year. Wheelchair accessible. Equipment available.  
Please contact: Valerie Boddington

**NORTH DEVON**, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

**Spain** - Fully adapted ground floor holiday apartments in the Mojácar area of south east Spain. 2 bedrooms, shared pool, close to beach and town. Pleasant holiday area for winter break. Please write or phone: RAYMAR, Unit 1, Fairview Estate, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1HE, tel: 0491 578446.

**Beautiful Welsh stone cottages** nestled in a quiet valley on the River Granell. Close to mountains, hills and Cardigan Bay. Fully equipped for the disabled visitor. To sleep 5 persons. Bed linen and towels supplied. For colour brochure phone Richard and Linda Burgess on (0570) 470275.  
\*INDOOR HEATED SWIMMING POOL AND GAMES ROOM NOW OPEN\* Weekend/midweek breaks now available.

**BRITTANY COTTAGE** to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.



"Hacienda-el-Miguel" the Costa Blanca. Disabled Friendly Holiday Apartment for up to 6. 93 prices for 94. Ring or write soon to avoid disappointment. Mick Benford, Holben, 6 Chaston Place, Kettering, Northants NN16 9TF. Tel: (0536) 523591.

St. Leonards, Sussex. 7 berth caravan adapted for disabled people on Haven Site. For colour brochure. Tel: Shepway MS (0303) 242009.

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA. HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME FOR DISABLED TRAVELLERS.** Fully accessible spacious luxury adapted bungalow. Free golf/tennis/swimming club. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Cable tv. Telephone. 15 minutes Airport. 15 minutes Disney etc. DON'T MISS IT! Contact paraplegic owner, Sue Fisher, 061-792 3029, 5 Park Lane, Broughton Park, Salford M7 0LB. Book early to avoid disappointment.

**Costa Blanca - Spain**  
Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibus, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scotts Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 525133.

**NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS. SELF CATERING COTTAGE IN HUTTON LE HOLE.** SLEEPS FOUR + COT. FULLY EQUIPPED AND HEATED. LINEN PROVIDED. FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED. WHEELCHAIR ACCESS. DOGS WELCOME. PHONE 07515 7743.

Picturesque Cottages in rural GLOUCESTERSHIRE. One is designed specially for use by accompanied disabled or elderly visitors. 2 miles off Junction 13 M5. Self-Catering - Provisions can be supplied Booking & Brochure Tel: (0452) 740204 Write: Teesdale, Whitminster GL2 7PN

Llanleilo, West Wales. 3 comfortable well equipped cottages specially for disabled people and their families. Overlooked by 12th century castle and over-run by deer. Each cottage sleeps 4. Central heating, CTV, laundry, fitness room. Large orchard and a very warm welcome. Open all year, short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (0558) 823059 for brochure.

**RECRUITMENT****Artistic Director - Video (Wigan)**

To facilitate the making of a video exploring issues of Day Centres in Wigan. Working with a small team to research, script, film & edit. Short term contract. Fee £5,000.

For further info. contact W Parry, C.A.W., 3rd Floor, 11-13 Spear St, Manchester. Tel: 061-237 3674.

**UK RETT SYNDROME ASSOCIATION**

INVITATION TO TENDER  
This rapidly expanding Association, serving profoundly handicapped girls, their parents and carers invites tenders for its administration and fundraising.

Tenders can be submitted for one or both functions.

Details available from: Mrs Y Milne, Chairman UKRSA, c/o 52 Malthouse Lane, Earlswood, Soll-hull, West Midlands B94 5RY

Deadline 30/9/93.

**GRANT AID****LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST**  
**Grant Aid to Voluntary Organisations and Community Groups**

The Council invites voluntary and community organisations serving the local community of Waltham Forest to apply for Grant Aid for the financial year 1994/95.

Groups involved in any of the following may be eligible for funding:

\*Advice \*Arts \*Community Developments \*Counselling & Information \*Housing/Tenant Group \*Race Relations \*Social Services \*Welfare Rights Groups

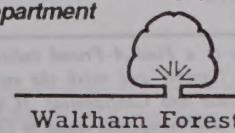
\*Children's Holiday Projects \*Disability Issues \*Education \*Leisure \*Recreation \*Sports Clubs \*Women's Groups

Demand for Grant Aid is always high and the Council's financial resources are limited, applications should therefore recognise this constraint.

Local Community Language cassette tapes summarising the Grant Aid process are available on request. For non-English speakers individual advice on filling in the forms can also be arranged through our **Interpreting and Translation Service**. Tel: 081-521 7835 (9 - 5 weekdays).

Forms must be returned by Friday 29th October, 1993.

For an application form/further details telephone: 081-527 5544 ext. 4291 (answerphone 9 - 5 weekdays) or write to: The Chief Executive's Department (Secretariat Room 227), Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF

**MOBILE REPAIR SERVICE****TECHNICAL SKILLS IN COMMUNITY CARE****OFFICE SUPPORT WORKER**

We are looking for an admin worker to join our two office staff organising our busy repair service for pensioners and people with disabilities. You will need general office skills, familiarity with computer use, communication skills, basic finance experience and an understanding of our client group.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. We would particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities.

Salary: £11,000 - £11,400 for a 26 hr week over 4 or 5 days.

Closing date: 17th September 1993.

Contact: MRS, 2 St Paul's Rd, London N1 2QN. Tel: 071-354 0557 (24hrs).

**DisabilityNow****Editorial assistant/secretary**

Salary: £12,716-£13,971 (incl ILW)

The leading disability publication in the UK needs an enthusiastic, well-organised person to keep the office running smoothly, write the Checkout and information sections, and help with sub-editing and proofing.

You must have good shorthand and typing speeds, a knowledge of word processing (preferably Microsoft Word) and at least a year's secretarial experience. You should also be interested in disability issues, have writing ability, and enjoy meeting people and answering telephone enquiries.

Please send your cv to Mary Wilkinson, Editor, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. For further information, tel: 071-636 5020 ext 245.

Applications welcomed from people with disabilities.

**Deadline: 17 September 1993.**

**RECRUITING QUALITY PEOPLE FOR QUALITY SERVICES**

**DIRECTORATE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Head of Disability Unit (Job Share)**

Grade PO4 £24,117 - £25,518 pro rata

17.5 hours per week

**Disability Unit**

Hackney Council's Disability Unit has laid the foundation of an impressive disability equality programme since its establishment in the mid 1980s. Pioneering initiatives such as "Job Match" it has demonstrated how local authorities can practically target services for people with disabilities.

We are looking for someone to share the job with the current post-holder, who has the skills and abilities to jointly lead a team of Disability Officers in enhancing access in the widest sense to Council Services and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Essential requirements are an understanding of the needs and aspirations of people with disabilities through direct personal experience, experience of working in the disability equality field in local government or similar setting, and an understanding of the needs of a multi-racial area such as Hackney.

This post is restricted to people with disabilities.

If you have these abilities and would welcome the challenge this job presents, please contact 081-985 3977

**Application form and further details from The Recruitment Office, Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA. Telephone 081-986 5331 (24 hour ansaphone).**

Please quote ref: CESW/503/DN.

Closing date: 5pm 17th September 1993.

Shortlisting date: 21st September 1993.

Interview date: 1st October 1993.

We provide a smoke free work environment.

All applications for jobs are considered on merit, with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities. Job share applications are welcomed with or without a partner.



**HACKNEY COUNCIL**  
Working for local people

## DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (DEA)

### DEA MEMBERSHIP AND INFORMATION WORKER

A new organisation for Development Education is being launched in October and this post will be responsible for developing a database of members and potential members of DEA, setting up an enquiries service and promoting the Association to interested agencies.

The person appointed will be expected to have word processing and database skills, experience of running enquiries services and a knowledge of development education.

The post will be based at the Association's office in London and will be for 9 months.

SALARY: £15,000 including London weighting.

For further details send a large stamped self addressed envelope to Coordinator, NADEC, 29-31 Cowper Street, London EC2A 4AP.

The post is not appropriate for a job share. The offices do not currently have wheelchair access.

Closing date for applications is September 13th.

The Development Education Association will be striving to be an equal opportunities employer.

### FIND-A-FRIEND

For Find A Friend ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

**35 YR OLD GAY GUY**, fairly good looking, lives West London with own wheelchair-friendly flat. Wishes to meet guys 21 to 45 yrs for fun and friendship. Please send photo. Box No. 567.

**MALE, 46, SINGLE**. Looking for a nice lady about 40 who is slightly disabled and has own place and car. Interests include cinema, going out and eating etc. I would like to find someone "special". Please send a photo. Box No. 568.

**18 YR OLD MALE**, disabled with muscular dystrophy, seeks pen friends for friendship. Interests include football, motor racing, music, computers, tv, etc. Will write to anybody of same age group. Suffolk area. Box No. 569.

**40 YEAR OLD MAN** with law degree, living in France, who has CP, looking for a girl 20-30 years old, who is fond of literature, history and has a car, to enjoy a tender life together. Box No. 570.

**VERY PRETTY CHARMING FEMALE**, 34, kind, romantic and bright with partial sight and hearing, seeks male of any age up to 44. He should be decently educated and professional, caring, reliable, easy going and willing to make a commitment to take care of me. Car owner preferred. I enjoy swimming. Box No. 571.

**VERY LONELY ABLE-BODIED MAN**, 45, seeks able-bodied or disabled woman who can make me a priority. Box No. 572.

**YOUNG DISABLED MALE**, 31, wheelchair user, likes pop music, reading, going out to concerts or visiting places of interest. Seeks a female, 29-35, preferably able-bodied. Must be gentle, caring, and understanding, preferably non-smoker and car owner. Looking for long term relationship. Box No. 573.

**BOURNEMOUTH LADY**, 76, uses crutches, seeks friends. Enjoys books, philosophy, music and many other interests. Box No. 574.

**GAY FEMALE**, 50s, young at heart. Interests include classical music, literature, good conversation. Disabled with muscular problem but ambulant. Lives in West London with own home and car. Wants to meet fun loving gay lady 35 plus for sincere, affectionate relationship. Box No. 575.

**SOUTH COAST WIDOW**, 73, arthritic but mobile, petite, attractive, caring and good humoured, interested in gardening, country drives and good books, seeks companionship with London gent of 70. I am returning to West London area for a fresh start. Box No. 576.

**50 YEAR OLD LADY WITH MS** (separated), needs a male companion to help push wheelchair. Is there a kind caring man, in or around Edinburgh who would like to befriend her? She is 5ft 6in tall with light brown hair and blue eyes. Hubby could not accept the illness so he needs a replacement! Box No. 577.

**MATURE MALE**, 35, in a wheelchair, seeks young lady to accompany him on trips out. Must live in Nottingham area. Box No. 578.

**28 YEAR OLD MALE** (single), wishes to meet disabled or able-bodied, fun-loving female of 28-35 years. I am slightly disabled with cerebral palsy, but not confined to a wheelchair. I like music and the social scene. I am a drinker and non-smoker and of a caring, sensitive nature. Box No. 579.

To reply to a Find-A-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.

### HOME FROM HOME

### RESPITE CARE WORKER

SCP 22/25 - £14,523  
INCL OF LW PRO RATA  
FOR 24 HOURS A WEEK

HOME FROM HOME is an exciting family based Respite Care Service for children with disabilities.

We are seeking a Respite Care Worker to join our established team. You need experience of working in partnership with parents/relatives and have 1 year experience with children/adults with disabilities. You will also need to show a commitment to working towards equality of opportunities.

For further details please send 34p stamps to:

KIDS FAMILY CENTRE, 80 Waynflete Square, London W10 6UD.

**Closing Date:** Monday 27th Sept 1993 noon.

**Interview Date:** Friday 8th October 1993.

Please note CV's will not be considered.

**KIDS values the skills of all sections of the community and needs more people with disabilities and people from ethnic minorities.**

Charity Reg No: 275936.

**KIDS**  
WORKING FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

### DISABILITY UNIT & WALTHAM FOREST SIGN LANGUAGE SERVICE (INTERPRETING & TRANSLATION SERVICE)

The London Borough of Waltham Forest is determined to end discrimination, and is committed to fighting ableism where ever it appears, especially in its own practices. We believe that change will only come about, when those who experience the discrimination are fully involved in directing that change.

To this end, we have created a Disability Equality Committee and a Central Disability Unit and have recruited specialist Disability Officers in departments. We now have the following vacancies:

### SENIOR TRAINING OFFICER (DISABILITY) -

#### 18 HOURS

##### DISABILITY UNIT

£9,414 - £10,109 p.a. inc.

We are seeking a disabled person to help us to develop training for departments and individuals, both disabled and non-disabled employees. You will have experience as a trainer, including on equal opportunities and, preferably disability equality issues. You must be able to organise and prioritise your work. You will be a good communicator, with experience of working in a multicultural community. You will also have an understanding of the effects of multiple discrimination upon disabled people, together with practical experience of fighting discrimination.

### PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE DISABILITY CO-ORDINATOR

Ref: H2122 / DN

##### DISABILITY UNIT

£13,545 - £14,766 p.a. inc.

We need a disabled person to give personal administrative and secretariat support to the Council's Disability Co-ordinator who is blind; summarise lengthy documents; distribute, file and store information ensuring it is readily available when required. You must be able to read aloud clearly from standard ink print and have good communication and editing skills. An ability to do small pieces of research, to work on your own initiative and to meet tight deadlines, is essential. You will have some experience of office administration and basic keyboard skills including new technology.

### 2 SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS 18 HOURS

### WALTHAM FOREST INTERPRETING & TRANSLATION SERVICE, £8,388 - £8,908 p.a. inc.

Ref: H2123 / DN

(subject to Review)

The London Borough of Waltham Forest is starting up a sign language service to ensure that deaf people both as service users and Council employees have access to information about their rights. The service will be based in the Council's Interpreting and Translation Service and will provide a range of interpreting provision for all sections of the deaf community.

We need 2 part-time Sign Language Interpreters to provide a range of interpreting services for deaf people. You must be Stage 3 registered trainee with substantial relevant experience.

The ability to use BSL, Deaf/Blind Manual Sign, Lip Speaking and Voice over skills is essential. You must demonstrate an understanding of the issues and needs of the deaf community, and the importance of community language provision.

Minicom users may telephone 081 527 5544 ext. 4729 between 9.30am and 5.00pm

These posts are available for Job Share.

Job details are available on tape upon request.

**Closing date:** 27th September 1993

For an application form and further details apply to Personnel Unit, Social Services Department, Municipal Offices, High Road, London E10 5QJ. (Tel: 081 539 3089 - 24 hour answering service).

An Equal Opportunities Employer

## OFFERING A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES

## MEANS

## WE CAN OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES

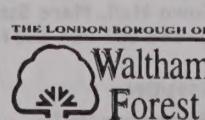
We provide Waltham Forest's multi-cultural community with a wide range of essential services. That means we have a wide range of job opportunities to offer.

Whatever your background, skills, or level of experience, we're bound to have a position to suit you. You don't have to be straight out of school or college with a string of qualifications either.

We regularly have vacancies of all types at all levels - office, craft and manual, and professional.

You will find our job advertisements in the local papers, national press and in various trade and professional journals. Information on our vacancies is displayed at local Job Centres, and details are also circulated to community groups within the Borough.

Contact the Recruitment Officer on 081 527 5544 for our Job List, which is updated each week. Or you can pick up a copy from the Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17 4JF, or from other public offices and libraries. The Job List is also available on tape, upon request.



Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.

For a copy of the Job List return the coupon to The Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

DN

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To reply to a Find-A-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.

**sabled Living Advice Worker**

Salary Scale £11,827 - £15,709

Dene Centre is a regional centre, run by a voluntary organisation, comprising information and advisory services, demonstration and display areas and advocacy and teaching services. The organisation is in a process of transition and is striving to be an equal opportunities employer whose services are representative of and responsive to needs identified by disabled people.

require a disabled person with experience of advice work and training to join the Dene Living Centre.

Our responsibilities will include providing information and advice to clients on assistive equipment and building design. This service is offered in person and by phone and post. You will be required to contribute to training activities in conjunction with other staff.

This post is open only to disabled applicants.

Application forms and further details available from, The Dene Centre, Castles Farm Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PH.

Closing Date for applications: 17th September 93.


**BRENT ASSOCIATION  
OF  
DISABLED PEOPLE      Administrative Worker  
(35 hours)**
**Salary £13,101.81 (inclusive)**

ADP wishes to recruit a disabled person into this secretarial post. You will have word processing skills, be able to take minutes, do reception duties, deal with enquiries from the public, order supplies and manage a filing system. This is a job with an interesting variety of tasks. You will need to be flexible as some occasional evening meetings are involved.

Job description and application form apply to:  
**The Joint General Manager, BADP, 154 Harlesden Road, Willesden, London NW10 3RX. Tel No and Minicom: 081-451 3822. Fax No: 081-451 7803.**

**ADP is a fully accessible building with a NO SMOKING POLICY.**

Information is available on tape.

Closing date for applications:- **FRIDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 1993.**

**BRITISH SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED****REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (EASTERN REGION)****Three Year Contract - Salary £15,208 plus benefits**

The Association, with support from the Sports Council and Peterborough City Council, is seeking a Regional Development Manager to support the development of opportunities in sport and recreation for people with disabilities. The successful applicant will be located within Peterborough City Council's Leisure Services Department and will be responsible for the Eastern Region (covering Beds, Cambs, Essex, Herts, Norfolk and Suffolk). There will be extensive travelling and a company car will be provided.

Applicants should have a good knowledge of the field of disability sport, excellent communication skills, and experience of sports development work.

Closing Date for Application: 20th September 1993

Interviews to be held on: 8th October 1993

BSAD are working towards being an Equal Opportunities employer and applications are actively invited from all areas of the community.

For an application form, please contact:

BSAD, Solecast House, 13-27 Brunswick Place, London N1 6DX. Tel: 071-490 4919.

For further information, contact Richard Hunt, National Development Manager.



London's Information and Advice Service for Disabled People On Access to Arts and to Entertainments

**ARTSLINE****requires a Disabled Asian Outreach Worker**

S/he will undertake outreach work with Asian Disabled People in London, to ascertain their needs in respect of arts, entertainment and cultural activities and work with the Deaf Asian Outreach Worker to organise and manage our mobile library of films, videos, talking books etc in major Asian languages.

Salary: £14,000 pa for a 5 day week on a fixed term contract of 12 months. Job description and application form and other details (in print and tape) available from: ARTSLINE, 5 Crowndale Road, London NW1 1TU. Tel: 071-388 2227 (voice and minicom). Fax: 071-383 2653.

Closing date for applications: 30 September 1993

ARTSLINE is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Only Disabled People need apply. The workspace is fully wheelchair accessible. Section 5(2)(d) of the Race Relations Act applies.

**Training Officer**

ART LINK is a regional development agency promoting arts opportunities for older and disabled people and people with mental health problems. Our training changes attitudes to the arts and promotes good practice.

We require someone to design, co-ordinate and deliver diverse training services for arts practitioners, care/health workers and our user groups. Experience in training related to equality, access or rights is essential, as is an interest in the arts.

Salary in the range £16,000 - £18,593

Applicants with personal experience of disability, mental illness or older age are sought because their experience will be important in this post. Non-disabled people are also invited to apply but suitably qualified disabled applicants will be considered and interviewed first.

Information (written/tape/large print) from:  
**Art Link, 1 Hatherton Street, Walsall WS1 1YB  
0922 616566 (voice & minicom)**

Deadline: September 24th.

Art Link has an active equal opportunities policy.

Previous applicants need not re-apply. This post is available for job share.

**TO ADVERTISE YOUR  
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please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 071-252 1362. Fax: 071-237 8019.

**NEWS QUIZ  
ANSWERS**

- Albert, Prince of Liège
- Jurassic Park
- The Maastricht Treaty
- Japan
- Publishing school league tables based on pupils' test results
- Mike Atherton
- 93
- De Montfort University
- £200
- American Airlines

**CROSSWORD  
ANSWERS**

- ACROSS: 1. Care  
3. Oddball 7. Microscopic  
9. Useless 11. Impact  
12. In the 13. Spelling  
15. Yanks 18. Ego  
19. Armenia 20. English Rose  
DOWN: 1. Community  
2. Recreating 4. Decisive  
5. Bap 6. Homeless  
8. Integral 10. Variants 14. Lemur 16. Aeon  
17. Kohl 19. Ass

Deadlines for October issue: booking by 10 September, camera ready artwork/copy by 14 September.

**Lancashire  
County  
Council**

Lancashire County Council will be placing an advertisement for a full time qualified Youth and Community Worker to establish Youth and Community work in a new centre in Burscough, West Lancashire.

30% of the post will be to promote Youth and Community work with disabled people.

It is hoped that the advertisement will appear in the Times Educational Supplement and the Guardian in the second or third week of September.

Disabled people are particularly welcomed and encouraged to apply.

**AGE  
Concern****HACKNEY  
Advocacy Worker (Ref: AD1)**

Hackney Hospital's continuing care wards are to be closed from Autumn 1994. The Barts (NHS) Group are committed to a re provision of residential facilities. This new scheme has been set up to advocate on an individual, confidential basis for disabled older residents so they can make informed choices about their future homes, living arrangements and care plans.

We are looking for someone with at least 2 years experience of providing one of the following: direct advice on a one to one basis, counselling in a recognised therapeutic context, or advocacy. The successful applicant should have experience in negotiating changes in individual circumstances.

Salary S.O.1 £17,757 inc. LW (pay award pending). Funded initially for one year by the Kings Fund; negotiations have commenced with statutory funders.

Closing date: 17th September 1993.  
Interview date: 30th September 1993.

Age Concern Hackney is an equal opportunities employer.

For application pack telephone 071-254-0715 (24 hours) or write to Age Concern Hackney, 22 Dalston Lane, Hackney E8 3AZ quoting post applied for and appropriate reference.

Please note, C.V.'s will not be considered.

Age Concern Hackney is a non-smoking office.

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Overseas	One year £20 <input type="checkbox"/>
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